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SUNDAY, JULY 18, 2004



Staff Sgt. Robert Ramirez, a medic with the Hawaii-based 68th Medical Company (Air Ambulance), trains in the Afghanistan desert last week, as U.S. forces there launched Operation Lightning Resolve, a new campaign to protect upcoming elections scheduled for October.

JON R. ANDERSON/Stars and Stripes

U.S. forces shift from hunt for bin Laden

Military dedicating resources
to securing Afghan election

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Courtesy of Sandia National Laboratories

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exposed troops** Page 8

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Business

Boeing lawsuit: Boeing Co. agreed Friday to pay up to \$72.5 million to settle a sex-discrimination lawsuit filed on behalf of 29,000 and former female employees at its Seattle-area facilities, where it primarily builds commercial aircraft.

U.S. District Judge Marsha Pechman in Seattle approved the deal, four years after the class-action suit was filed. It charged the Chicago aerospace giant with giving women workers less pay and fewer promotions than their male counterparts. A Boeing study obtained in the case determined that female workers typically earn \$1,000 to \$2,000 less than men, according to Joseph Sellers, of Washington, D.C., an attorney representing the female workers. A 1998 internal Boeing report concluded that men were more likely to be hired into higher-paying positions, he said.

World

Bahrain terror suspects: Six terror suspects being investigated in Bahrain for allegedly planning to bomb government and foreign interests have begun a hunger strike to protest their detention, a defense attorney said Saturday.

Abdulla Hashim, an attorney for four of the six men, said he hoped they would end the strike, which they began Friday.

"This hunger strike is useless because there is a legal order to keep them in custody and nobody can terminate this order," Hashim said.

Punished for bloodshed: East Timor's final Indonesian-appointed governor on Saturday began serving a three-year prison term for his role in the 1999 violence there, becoming the first person to be punished in Indonesia over the bloodshed.

Abilio Jose Soares has denied any wrongdoing. He maintained Saturday that Indonesian police and military officials were responsible for the carnage, which accompanied East Timor's 1999 break from Indonesian rule.

Milosevic trial postponed: Former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic's defense case against war crimes has been postponed until Aug. 31 due to his ill health, the U.N. tribunal said Friday.



Milosevic

The trial had been scheduled to resume Monday, after four previous delays, but a new medical report indicated Milosevic's blood pressure was still too high, court spokesman Jim Landale said.

No additional details of the medical report were released.

Pakistani rocket attack: Suspected al-Qaida fugitives fired rockets on Pakistani troops in a remote northwestern tribal region near Afghanistan, triggering a shootout that killed three villagers and wounded four others, officials said Saturday.

It wasn't immediately clear whether the attackers suffered any casualties in the fighting late Friday in Khasior, a village about 15 miles northeast of Wana, the main town in South Waziristan, said Brig. Mahmood Shah, head of the security for tribal regions.

Opium crackdown: New anti-drug police hammered opium poppy growers in central Afghanistan but came too late to tackle much of this year's bumper crop, officials said Saturday.

Afghanistan's Poppy Eradication Force



Monumental tour: A moving crew uses a bar to lift one end of the Ten Commandments monument in the Alabama Judicial Building in Montgomery, Ala., in August 2003. A veterans group, with the blessing of ousted Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore, said it will take his Ten Commandments monument on a national "God Bless America" tour. The tour, announced Thursday on the Web site of a pastor who is a member of the group, will feature a veteran, a civic leader and a spiritual leader speaking at each stop.

destroyed some 2,350 acres of the crop in Wardak and Bamiyan provinces, where cultivation has been expanding.

Afghan farmers grew about 197,680 acres of poppy last year, making the country the world's largest producer of opium, the raw material for heroin.

Chavez recall: Of late, President Hugo Chavez has filled stadiums across Venezuela to swear in thousands of new citizens, issue them national ID cards and urge them to vote against the recall that could push him from office.

Venezuela's opposition is quietly piecing together its own campaign to win the Aug. 15 recall referendum and force fresh presidential elections. Opposition leader Juan Fernandez said Friday that Chavez opponents shouldn't be alarmed by the government's massive naturalizations.

States

Capitol shooter: A federal judge is allowing another six months of forced medication for the man accused of killing two Capitol police officers in 1998.

U.S. District Judge Emmet Sullivan granted the government's request Thursday after concluding that Russell Eugene Weston Jr.'s delusional condition was improving. He said there was a "substantial probability" the medication would give Weston the mental capacity to stand trial.

Weston, who has been under government medication since January 2002, is accused of gunning down officers Jacob Chestnut and John Gibson as they manned their posts inside the Capitol. He could face the death penalty if convicted.

Parental consent law: A federal appeals court on Friday threw out an Idaho law requiring girls under age 18 to get parental consent for abortions, ruling that its provisions on emergency abortions were too strict.

Writing for the court, Judge Marsha Berzon said there was no reasonable explanation for limiting emergency abortions without consent to "sudden and unexpected" instances of physical complications.

The court said the rest of the law could not be salvaged because the emergency provisions were too important.

New Jersey floods: President Bush declared a federal disaster zone Friday in

parts of southern New Jersey where flooding washed out bridges, breached dams and ruined homes.

The declaration makes businesses and homeowners in Burlington County, in the middle of the state, and adjacent Camden County, near Philadelphia, eligible for government grants and low-interest loans. Aid also will be available to repair damaged public property.

Inspectors had checked out nearly all the 66 dams in the flood zone and found 12 had been breached.

Mars rovers: NASA's Mars rover Spirit has begun driving in reverse to overcome a balky front wheel, but engineers expect it to keep covering Martian ground, mission officials said.

The new driving technique was detailed Friday as scientists at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory revealed that the six-wheeled Spirit had finally discovered a rock outcrop, a formation offering the potential for layered rocks that could give geologists a view far into Mars' geologic past.

Spirit's twin, Opportunity, fortuitously landed next to such an outcrop in January. Opportunity quickly found a wealth of evidence that the site in the Meridiani Planum region was once saturated with water, and conditions there could have been suitable for life.

Terrorism database: The format of a crime and terrorism database known as Matrix is being changed to allow privacy and legal concerns that led several states to drop out of the federally funded project.

As it stands now, the Multistate Anti-Terrorism Information Exchange combines state vehicle and crime records with commercial databases owned by a private company, Seisint Inc., giving investigators quick access to hundreds of pieces of information on potential suspects.

Suspected terrorist: Five weeks after his acquittal on terrorism support charges, and more than two weeks after his deportation was supposedly set, a Saudi graduate student remains in county jail.

Lori Haley, a spokeswoman for the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Southern California, said the government has run into some delays in arranging the deportation to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, but Al-Hussayn should be out of the United States by the end of July.

Photos and stories from The Associated Press

Bomb targets Iraq justice minister

BY DANICA KIRKA
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A car bomb struck the Iraqi justice minister's convoy as it passed through western Baghdad on Saturday, killing five of his bodyguards. The minister was unhurt in the blast, one of several bloody attacks against Iraq and the latest attempt on the life of a top government official.

The blast hit the tail end of Justice Minister Malik Dohan al-Hasan's convoy at an intersection 500 yards from his home.

About the same time, a car bomb exploded outside an Iraqi National Guard headquarters in Mahmudiyah, 20 miles south of Baghdad. Two people were killed and 47 were wounded, hospital officials said.

Loae Hassan, one of al-Hasan's bodyguards, said several members of the justice minister's security detail were killed in the convoy blast, which destroyed three vehicles. The Health Ministry put the number at four — among them the minister's nephews.

"A car was parking on the opposite direction of the road, when the driver, God curse him, saw us and exploded himself," said Hassan.

"My understanding is that the minister is fine," said Col. Michael Formica, commander of the U.S. 1st Cavalry Division's 2nd Bri-

gade. Insurgents have targeted officials in the interim Iraq government for assassination because of their decision to work with American forces. Guerrillas see the Iraqi officials as collaborators.

The blast that struck the minister's convoy curved a crater yards in diameter and two feet deep into the pavement. Flames lapped the charred shell of one car stopped alongside a pylon supporting a bridge.

Emergency personnel struggled to load a limp body into the back of an ambulance and then sped off, bouncing up on a curb to avoid a police vehicle parked in the middle of the road. A helicopter hovered overhead.

Earlier this week, militants killed the governor of Nineveh province and a senior official in the Industry Ministry. Guerrillas also attacked a convoy of Foreign Ministry officials, killing one and wounding two others.

In the other car bombing Saturday, prospective recruits were waiting to get into the headquarters, said Dr. Dawoud Jassim Tala, director of the Mahmudiyah Hospital. Six of the wounded were National Guard troops while the rest were prospective recruits, he said.

National Guard troops became suspicious of a parked car near a checkpoint and opened fire, said one officer, who declined

to be named. The bomb went off about 30 feet from the checkpoint.

Shortly afterward, insurgents lobbed a hand grenade at a police patrol in the same neighborhood, badly wounding two police officers, said police Maj. Hashim Raed. Also Saturday, a roadside bomb detonated near a police vehicle in the western Baghdad district of Hay al-Jamea, wounding four officers, police Lt. Alaa Adnan said.

It was possible the attacks were tied to the date: Saturday marked the 36th anniversary of the coup that brought the Baath party to power in Iraq.

Former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein took part in the bloodless military revolt and became the second most powerful man in the government. Eleven years later, he took full power.

There were huge celebrations marking the day during Saddam's reign, but they were cancelled after he was swept from power last year in the American-led invasion.

Also Saturday, a saboteur attempting to plant a bomb under a natural gas pipeline set off the explosion early and killed himself, authorities said.

The explosion in Riyyat, about 30 miles southwest of Baghdad, did not damage the line, said Col. Sarhat Qader of the Iraqi police in Kirkuk.

"He was blown to pieces while trying to place it into the hole in the ground," Qader said.

Insurgents frequently target Iraq's oil infrastructure and repeated bombings on pipelines have disrupted exports, robbing Iraq of hundreds of millions of dollars in much-needed reconstruction funds.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Friday, 886 U.S. servicemen have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 654 died as a result of hostile action and 232 died of nonhostile causes.

The British military has reported 59 deaths; Italy, 18; Spain, eight; Bulgaria and Poland, six each; Ukraine, four; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 748 U.S. servicemen have died — 545 as a result of hostile action.

The latest deaths reported by military: ■ No deaths reported.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Staff Sgt. Paul C. Mardis, Jr., 25, Palmetto, Fla.; died Thursday in Washington, D.C., from injuries sustained May 20 in Mosul, Iraq, when his vehicle was struck by an explosive device; assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 5th Special Forces Group, Fort Campbell, Ky.

Two soldiers died Wednesday in Talar, Iraq, when their vehicle rolled over; assigned to the 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, Fort Lewis, Wash.

■ Army Cpl. Demetrius L. Rice, 24, Ortonville, N.M.

■ Army Pfc. Jesse J. Martinez, 20, Tracy, Calif.

Philippines' decision to leave Iraq cheered at home

BY HRVOJE HRANJSKI
The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — People lit candles and held prayer vigils Friday for the safe return of a Filipino truck driver in Iraq, but the government's decision to withdraw its peacekeeping contingent to obtain his release drew criticism abroad.

The decision has alienated President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's allies in the war on terror, including the United States, who worry that meeting a terrorist demand sets a bad precedent.

But with 7 million Filipinos working overseas, including 1.4 million in the Middle East, saving the life of Angelo dela Cruz has become an emotionally charged issue that Arroyo couldn't ignore. The Philippines had planned to pull its troops out by Aug. 20, but said Wednesday it would withdraw them early because of the kidnapping.

"The humiliation should be seen as a necessary end to a misadventure that started when the Philippines, understandably out of concern over the stalking menace of terrorism at home and abroad, put its weight behind the United States in the invasion of Iraq," the Philippine Daily Inquirer said Friday in an editorial.

"The more than 4,000 Filipino workers in Iraq shouldn't be there in the first place," added Conde Regalado, head of Migrante, a lobbying group for overseas workers. "Most of them are



Relatives and neighbors continue their prayer vigil moments before hearing news Thursday of Philippine hostage Angelo dela Cruz in their hometown in Mexico, Panapa province, northern Philippines. Relatives of dela Cruz, a Filipino truck driver kidnapped in Iraq, were cautiously optimistic Thursday that he would be released.

in U.S. military installations, where they're the first target of Iraq rebels."

The militant group holding dela Cruz says it will release him if the last of the 51-strong Philippine contingent leaves Iraq by the end of July. There has been no move to withdraw the thousands of Filipino civilians working on contracts there.

The United States, Australia and Iraq's interim government criticized the withdrawal decision.

"I don't want to be harsh on a friend, but it is a mistake and it won't buy them immunity," Australian Prime Minister John Howard said Friday. "It's a wretched state of affairs, but if you give in, it won't stop it happening again. You invite people to do it with increasing severity because they will know they succeed."

"If you give in, the game's over and they will increase the intensity of their attacks," he said.

White House press secretary

Leno's jokes draw criticism

BY OLIVER TEVES
The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — The president's spokesman was not laughing at U.S. talk show host Jay Leno's quip that Philippine peacekeepers established a world speed record in their withdrawal from Iraq.

"Our courage has been demonstrated in [the World War II battle-grounds] Bataan and Corregidor and every other field where we have fought," Ignacio Bunye told RMN radio on Saturday. "All we can say is that what is first and foremost is the national interest of the Philippines."

The Philippines has been criticized by its allies, including the United States, for withdrawing its peacekeeping contingent in Iraq earlier than planned after insurgents threatened to behead a Filipino truck driver they captured near Fallujah.

The government announced the contingent was down from 51 to 43 Wednesday, and on Friday ordered the recall of 11 more.

"A new world record has been set in the 100 meter dash," Leno said on his television show Wednesday, later shown on local cable. "It was set by Filipino truckers fleeing Iraq."

The previous night, Leno pulled out a size of the contingent, saying rap artist Sean "P. Diddy" Combs had a bigger crew. At 51, the Philippines had the smallest contingent in the U.S.-led coalition in Iraq.

Scott McClellan said Thursday the decision "sends the wrong signal to terrorists."

"You cannot negotiate with terrorists or make a separate peace with terrorists," he said. He indicated it would not affect Manila's relationship with Washington.

In Manila, politicians across the board rejected the criticism, pointing out their difficult position.

Rep. Rolando Andaya said the U.S. administration "must understand the country's predicament

and respect its decision."

"The United States will understand that any action on the part of the government would have our national interest as our primary consideration," Senate President Franklin Drilon told reporters in Manila. Cruz's hometown, relatives cheered loudly when they saw the latest video of him on local TV. The footage, first aired by Al-Jazeera television, showed him saying he was coming home soon and thanking his government for agreeing to withdraw peacekeepers from the country.

U.S. military shifts focus in Afghanistan

Hunt for militants takes back seat to security as country readies for vote

BY JON R. ANDERSON
Stars and Stripes

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — U.S. commanders in Afghanistan are shifting forces and resources away from the hunt for Osama bin Laden to help support Afghanistan's upcoming national elections.

"We're going from the specific objective of searching out and killing the enemy to going out and protecting the election process," said Maj. Robert Ault, a senior operations planner for Combined Joint Task Force 76, the main warfighting headquarters in Afghanistan. "This is a huge shift for us," he said.

Called "Operation Lightning Resolve," the new focus of effort is designed to shore up the United Nations' push to register voters for the country's first post-Taliban elections since U.S. forces toppled the regime in late 2001.

The deteriorating security situation has repeatedly delayed those polls. In fact, only 6 million of an estimated 10 million eligible voters have been able to register so far.

Presidential elections were initially scheduled for June, then September. They are now set for Oct. 9 and will be followed by parliamentary elections in the spring.

In public statements, Taliban leaders have vowed to prevent those elections. Death threats to the elections have been circulating among villages. Already, dozens of Afghans have been killed or wounded in attacks against voter registration and security efforts in recent weeks.

Among the latest attacks, militants on Tuesday gunned down a police chief in a village near Kandahar, also torching a government building there, according to reports.

The Army hospital at Bagram air base this week was rehearsing mass casualty treatment scenarios amid concerns of a repeat of an attack that left more than a dozen

Afghan women dead or wounded in Jalalabad on June 26. The women were assisting in voter registration efforts in the area when an explosive device ripped their minibus apart.

One young girl missing the lower part of a leg is still recovering at the hospital.

"We know the threat is going to increase," as the elections near, said Ault. Ault understood, however, that the new U.S.-led campaign is not a shift to a more defensive stance.

"In fact, it's just the opposite," said Ault. "We're

still focused on going out and killing bad guys."

But now, rather than conduct specific operations to hunt for militants, U.S. troops will largely be tasked with providing overall security in troubled areas. Part of that effort, said Ault, will be showing up the fledgling Afghan National Army and local police forces.

New tactics

Lightning Resolve comes on the heels of Operation Mountain Storm, the U.S. coalition's spring offensive. The focal point of Mountain Storm was inserting the 2,000-strong 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit into Tarin Kot, a remote Taliban stronghold north of Kandahar.



REPT TROOP/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

During a visit Wednesday to a voter registration site in downtown Khost, Afghanistan, 2nd Lt. John Campbell, center, talks with Mujahideen about how the site is going. In a week and a half, more than 15,000 people have registered there. U.S. forces in Afghanistan last week launched Operation Lightning Resolve, a new campaign to protect the upcoming elections.

Like poking a stick into the hornet's nest, the operation resulted in several pitched battles with scores of Taliban killed.

"They stood and fought, but sustained losses probably in the hundreds," said Ault. "They learned every time they engage us, they lose."

As a result, he said, "we're seeing the enemy transition into smaller formations," and pick its fights more carefully.

In response, commanders are trying to lure out guerrilla fighters by sending out smaller forces into the badlands.

"Otherwise the enemy just won't engage us," said Lt. Col. Frank Tate, chief operations officer for the Army and Marine Corps aviation task force in Afghanistan.

"We want them to try and bite us, so then we can chop their heads off," said Tate.

To do that, commanders have been dispersing their units across wider areas.

U.S. forces have been moving from battalion-sized units operating from local fire bases and concentrating on a specific area or village, said Ault. Now, battalion commanders are responsible for entire regions in what has been

dubbed, "area ownership operations," he said.

Those commanders have also been given some \$40 million dollars to finance local projects.

"They have more leverage now than just their firepower. They have cash," said Ault.

As U.S. forces transition into Lightning Resolve, commanders hope to be able to use more carrot than stick.

"We're being very selective in how we're doing operations now. We're trying to move among the people, not through them," said Ault.

The Marine mission in Tarin Kot, for example, was intentionally "very intrusive. We were trying to make our presence known," in an area that largely never sees U.S. forces.

Now, the Marines are being replaced with civil affairs teams and other units that are giving the local population a "better alternative than the Taliban."

The local governor, installed by Afghanistan's interim government in Kabul, had been largely under siege in his own compound there.

"He was governor in name only," said Ault. "Now, he's out meeting with the village elders

and articulating his priorities."

Help on the way

Lightning Resolve also comes as the NATO-led peacekeeping force is preparing to expand its security mission in Iraq. The 6,500-strong International Security Assistance Force, or ISAF, has been slowly expanding from Kabul to provinces in the north.

On July 1, it took over provincial reconstruction efforts and five additional provinces.

Gradually, ISAF will assume responsibility for larger swaths of the Afghanistan map, said Ault, eventually "expanding counter-clockwise to the south."

Meanwhile, the alliance announced Friday it was preparing to deploy two rapid reaction units — about 2,000 troops — into Afghanistan in preparation for the elections. The Washington Post reported.

"For the election, we'll bring in extra forces to have a quick-reaction force ... so when things go wrong, you can move forces quickly in-theater," NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer was quoted as saying.

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General: U.S.-trained Afghan army can outfight warlords

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghanistan's U.S.-trained army is a match for any of the warlord militias which control much of the country, an American general said Saturday.

The Afghan National Army, built under American guidance since the fall of the Taliban in late 2001, now numbers 13,000 men, Brig. Gen. Thomas Mancino said.

"I can tell you that the current Central Corps is well-trained, well-equipped, professional and able to defeat any regional force," Mancino told reporters.

The general didn't identify any of the forces that could confront the new Afghan army, whose main Central Corps includes artillery and armored units as well as infantry.

But his remark comes days after President Hamid Karzai said that "warlordism" was a bigger threat to the country

than Taliban insurgents and announced a tougher approach with warlords resisting disarmament.

Only about 10,000 of the country's estimated 40,000-60,000 militiamen have been demobilized so far under a U.N.-sponsored program designed to ensure peace after more than 20 years of fighting.

National army troops have been involved in several U.S.-led operations against Taliban-led rebels in the south and east this year.

They have also been deployed to four provinces in the north and west where rival factions have fought, though the troops have not been involved in major clashes.

The national army is supposed to expand to 70,000 soldiers and include a revamped air force. Mancino said problems that saw thousands desert in the initial stages had been resolved, but declined to say when the force would be at full strength.

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A detainee rests inside his cell in Camp Delta at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba in this June 30 military-reviewed photo. The United States says many of the 594 terror suspects at Guantanamo are willing to appear before a tribunal when their cases are reviewed. Hearings could start this week.

England: Gitmo detainees show interest in tribunals

BY JOHN J. LUMPKIN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Most of the 594 terror suspects held at the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, appear willing to go before a tribunal that would give them a chance to convince military officers they have been wrongly detained, the Navy secretary said.

Gordon England, who is overseeing the tribunal process at the Navy base, said the first hearings will begin this week or early the following one. He offered no assessment of the prisoners' chances for release but said anyone found to be wrongly held would be returned to his home country.

The Guantanamo tribunals were set up soon after the Supreme Court ruled the prisoners there have a right to go to U.S. civilian courts to challenge their detention. The Pentagon said the purpose of the tribunals is to prepare for those court challenges by showing that a panel of military officers has reviewed each prisoner's case.

The prisoners, held with little or no contact with the outside for two years or more, were told of the Supreme Court's decision on their rights during the

past several days. England, briefing reporters at the Pentagon, said most reacted positively and wanted to meet with the military officer who will serve as their personal representative during the tribunal.

"Most of the people who received this information listened, read and asked questions," England said. "And their most commonly asked questions were: 'When can I meet with my personal representative? And when will the tribunal process begin?'"

"About 5 percent of the people responded negatively. That is, crumpled up the notice and threw it on the floor, whatever."

Every prisoner's case will be reviewed, whether he wants to take part in the quasi-judicial process or not. England said the prisoners also will be told their assigned personal representatives are not their advocates. He acknowledged any incriminating information a prisoner might provide to the representative, or to a translator, could be used in the tribunal.

He said he did not know whether any of the prisoners expressed interest in seeking freedom through the U.S. court system.

The tribunals will be open to the press, but England said the first ones probably would not be accessible.

One year after suicide, many back British expert's claims on Iraq

BY BETH GARDINER

The Associated Press

LONDON — Weapons scientist David Kelly left his Oxfordshire home for a walk in the woods a year ago Saturday, a tormented man at the center of an angry battle between the government and the British Broadcasting Corp. over a report on Iraq weapons.

His suicide injected an element of close-to-home tragedy into the Iraq war debate. The issues he raised still resonate, with the release last week of a report detailing the intelligence failures behind the decision to invade.

A year after Kelly's death, the question that loomed over his final days — did the government exaggerate intelligence on Saddam Hussein's arms to justify war? — continues to dominate headlines.

Some claimed the publication Wednesday of an independent inquiry into the prewar intelligence vindicated the late scientist, a leading biological arms expert who was a government adviser at the time of his death and had served as a U.N. weapons inspector in Iraq.

In May 2003, the British Broadcasting Corp. ran a story quoting an anonymous official — later identified as Kelly — as saying that Prime Minister Tony Blair's office had exaggerated evidence in a September 2002 dossier summing up intelligence on Iraq for the public.

The official told the BBC that the British government insisted on including in the dossier, despite intelligence experts' doubts, a claim that Iraq could deploy some chemical and biological weapons on 45 minutes' notice.

Blair's office furiously denied the charge, demanding an apolo-

gy and engaging in a public battle with the BBC.

In July, Kelly approached his bosses at the Ministry of Defence, telling them he had met with BBC journalist Andrew Gilligan, but saying he did not recognize his comments in the reporter's central claims and believed he was



Kelly

not the main source of the piece.

He was thrust into the spotlight after military officials decided to confirm his name to reporters who guessed it.

Kelly, 59, testified before two parliamentary committees.

He was found dead in the woods days later, on July 18, the morning after his disappearance. His left wrist was slit.

Blair appointed Lord Hutton, a senior appeals judge, to investigate. Hutton cleared the government in January of nearly all responsibility for Kelly's death, saying the BBC's report was "unfounded" and its editing procedures "defective."

But many labeled the probe a "whitewash," and Blair appointed Lord Butler to look at the broader issue of why prewar intelligence was not corroborated by any banned weapons finds in Iraq.

Butler, a former senior civil servant, said Iraq had no stockpiles of useable chemical or biological weapons before the war, and British intelligence to the contrary had been drawn in part from "seriously flawed" or "unreliable" sources.

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U.S. military trash a treasure trove in Iraq

Dump dwellers 'know a lot about garbage'

By TOD ROBBERTSON
The Dallas Morning News

BAGHDAD — Few Iraqis have as much enthusiasm for the presence of U.S. troops in their country than Fadhil Khalaf. Without ever having met them, he credits the troops with providing him housing material, contributing to his income and putting food on the table.

Iraqis can complain all they want about them, but Khalaf said he wants them to stick around for as long as possible.

"The Americans have the best garbage. We're very happy with it," he said at the end of a long, hot day scavenging through refuse at western Baghdad's Tajeer dump, known to Khalaf and scores of Iraqi families as home.

Baghdad's dump dwellers are kings of their own mountain.

"We don't know much, but we know a lot about garbage," said Muhammad Saad, 17, who has spent his entire life living in the dump. Saad said he and virtually all other residents of the dump are illiterate, having spent years living atop garbage. Their homes are made of it. Their clothes are drawn from it.

Times have never been better than in the past 15 months of the U.S.-led military occupation of Iraq, residents said as they combed through recently arrived waste from Camp Victory.

Ordinary Iraqi garbage is largely a hodgepodge of smelly melon rinds, toilet paper and rancid household refuse.

But the garbage dumped at Tajeer from nearby U.S. military bases is a treasure trove — a sort of unintended time capsule of the 2003 war and its aftermath. There are books, shredded and unshredded documents, computer parts, leftover food rations and discarded liquor bottles.

Recently discarded FedEx boxes offer the names and base locations of U.S. military personnel. A two-page questionnaire, Form 2796, offers a glimpse at the concerns that Defense Department authorities have about the mental health of American troops facing the constant threat of attack.

A headline from a found Stars and Stripes newspaper helps explain why the questionnaire is necessary: "String of attacks kill at least 89 in Iraq."

What interests Tajeer residents most are the food, boots, tarps, construction supplies, wooden pallets, jerry cans and other items that military personnel discard in the mistaken impression that they are no longer useful.

The first question Khalaf's family asks dump-truck drivers when they arrive at Tajeer is "What are you finding and cakes and cookies and chocolate. I tasted chocolate for the first time in my life right over there."

Fadhil Khalaf
Baghdad dump dweller

whether they're carrying anything from a U.S. installation. If the answer is yes, families dig in like children opening gifts on Christmas.

"Sometimes you find cakes and cookies and chocolate. I tasted chocolate for the first time in my life right over there," said Khalaf, 24, as he pointed to a mound of well-sifted American garbage.

But for a man accustomed to living in



DALLAS MORNING NEWS/RT

A young girl finds a treat while going through garbage. Dozens of families live at the Tajeer garbage dump outside of Baghdad, making their homes from salvaged items.

filth, Khalaf's tough constitution met its match with a discarded American Meal, Ready to Eat, or MRE.

"I got diarrhea for the first time in my life," he said. "I think I ate too much."

Qadhim Saad, the 28-year-old brother of Muhammad Saad, expressed particular fondness for the miniature bottles of Tabasco hot sauce that come in every MRE. He said he drinks the stuff whenever he can get it, pronouncing it "very good."

Muhammad Qadhim, 29, who moved to the dump with his family only six months ago, said he does not touch MREs other than to feed them to his livestock.

"We don't know what it is. You have to be careful. Maybe it is expired," he said, nodding his head to emphasize his prudent caution. "Even the cattle get diarrhea from it," joked his neighbor, Khaled Daoud, 24.

Sirhan Fakir, 27, said residents typically run for cover whenever U.S. troops come near because, if an insurgent attack occurs, the troops "start shooting at anything that moves."

So everyone ran when two American helicopters swooped down over Tajeer several weeks ago, then hovered as if preparing for an attack.

Crewmembers aboard one helicopter heaved out something big, dark and mysterious, which fell to the ground with a thud. When the helicopters withdrew, residents approached the item cautiously.

Was it a bomb? Some new, sophisticated device to monitor insurgent activity in the area? No, Fakir said, just a thick, steel file cabinet, which he hopes will fetch a high price when he attempts to sell it soon in downtown Baghdad.

Stars and Stripes

Messages of Support

★ LT KRAUS. WE LOVE YOU AND ARE PRAYING FOR YOU! WE HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU SOON. LOVE ALWAYS AND FOREVER, Carmen and the Boys!

★ Every single American soldier will always be in my heart and remembered dearly for what they are doing for our country. I am very proud of you and I hope God has given you the perseverance and strength to continue this battle that should have never started. I pray to God that you all will make it back safely! Remember: Have faith, Good will always rise above evil! We love you!

★ To R. Knippers, we love you and are praying for you! Come back home safe and sound! Love, Dad, Dec, Mark, Amy, Zachary and Carmen

★ We are with you! I only regret that I am too old to be side by side with you. Ours prayers are for you. Patti & Lexi

★ To ALL members of the Armed Forces, whatever the capacity, THANK YOU!!! for your service! We support you and our prayers are with you all! From the PULCIFIER family, Pasadena, CA USA

★ We appreciate the job you are doing. Pete and Mary

★ Thank you for fighting for our country. For all of our rights of freedom. I salute you all for the courage & strength you each have. I pray for each of you to come home safely. Sometimes we don't always understand why things happen as they do, life's plan. But I thank you for fighting for America's dream "FREEDOM" & PEACE. Take care & know that we are all so very proud of the work you are doing for all of us. God Bless!

You are all very special individuals. We are praying & thinking of you all - your in our hearts & prayers. Angel (Bellingham, MA)

Desert jaunt



MATT EPHRIGHT/Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

Thirty-seven hours, 59 minutes and 135 miles later, Marine Corps Maj. William C. Maples darts across the finish line Wednesday at Camp Taggerdum, Iraq. Maples wears the distance to coincide with the Badwater Ultramarathon spanning from Death Valley to Mount Whitney in California. Since the 40-year-old Dallas native and six-time Badwater veteran is currently deployed to Iraq as the 1st Force Service Support Group's force protection officer, he couldn't actually participate in this year's race.

Troops get medieval with Kevlar gauntlets

Laboratory designs armored sleeves to keep soldiers safe while riding atop Humvees



Gauntlet creator Jim Purvis demonstrates the protective Kevlar sleeve. Purvis came up with the idea after reading about a soldier who lost his arms in Iraq.

Courtesy photo

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Sandia National Laboratories researchers are designing gauntlets to save the arms of soldiers riding atop Humvees and other military vehicles during combat — and they've gotten help with field tests by troops in Iraq.

Sandia's shoulder-length gauntlets are made of layers of heavy Kevlar, a reinforced material used in bulletproof vests and tires, with carbon-composite forearm and upper arm protective inserts.

The gauntlets weigh four pounds apiece, or eight pounds for a pair. They would be carried in a servicemember's rucksack or in the vehicle.

Sandia researcher Jim Purvis came up with the idea last October after reading about a soldier who lost his arms during the war in Iraq.

Researchers made several designs and came up with a refined prototype in November. The team sent several sets of gauntlets to the 1st Battalion, 82nd Airborne Division, 1st Cavalry Division, 2nd Infantry Division, 3rd Infantry Division, 4th Infantry Division, 5th Infantry Division, 6th Infantry Division, 7th Infantry Division, 8th Infantry Division, 9th Infantry Division, 10th Infantry Division, 11th Infantry Division, 12th Infantry Division, 13th Infantry Division, 14th Infantry Division, 15th Infantry Division, 16th Infantry Division, 17th Infantry Division, 18th Infantry Division, 19th Infantry Division, 20th Infantry Division, 21st Infantry Division, 22nd Infantry Division, 23rd Infantry Division, 24th Infantry Division, 25th Infantry Division, 26th Infantry Division, 27th Infantry Division, 28th Infantry Division, 29th Infantry Division, 30th Infantry Division, 31st Infantry Division, 32nd Infantry Division, 33rd Infantry Division, 34th Infantry Division, 35th Infantry Division, 36th Infantry Division, 37th Infantry Division, 38th Infantry Division, 39th Infantry Division, 40th Infantry Division, 41st Infantry Division, 42nd Infantry Division, 43rd Infantry Division, 44th Infantry Division, 45th Infantry Division, 46th Infantry Division, 47th Infantry Division, 48th Infantry Division, 49th Infantry Division, 50th Infantry Division, 51st Infantry Division, 52nd Infantry Division, 53rd Infantry Division, 54th Infantry Division, 55th Infantry Division, 56th Infantry Division, 57th Infantry Division, 58th Infantry Division, 59th Infantry Division, 60th Infantry Division, 61st Infantry Division, 62nd Infantry Division, 63rd Infantry Division, 64th Infantry Division, 65th Infantry Division, 66th Infantry Division, 67th Infantry Division, 68th Infantry Division, 69th Infantry Division, 70th Infantry Division, 71st Infantry Division, 72nd Infantry Division, 73rd Infantry Division, 74th Infantry Division, 75th Infantry Division, 76th Infantry Division, 77th Infantry Division, 78th Infantry Division, 79th Infantry Division, 80th Infantry Division, 81st Infantry Division, 82nd Infantry Division, 83rd Infantry Division, 84th Infantry Division, 85th Infantry Division, 86th Infantry Division, 87th Infantry Division, 88th Infantry Division, 89th Infantry Division, 90th Infantry Division, 91st Infantry Division, 92nd Infantry Division, 93rd Infantry Division, 94th Infantry Division, 95th Infantry Division, 96th Infantry Division, 97th Infantry Division, 98th Infantry Division, 99th Infantry Division, 100th Infantry Division.

Sandia came up with a one-size-fits-all design with blunt trauma protection for the hand, wrist and elbow and heat and blast protection. Soldiers recommended straps to hold the gauntlets in place and modifications to the forearm armor to increase flexibility and maneuverability.

They suggested a quick-release buckle, adding a neoprene sleeve inside the forearm for a more secure fit and placing a



RANDY MONTVOY/Courtesy of Sandia National Laboratories

Airman Garrett Martin demonstrates the Sandia Gauntlet atop a Humvee at Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico. The gauntlet can help save arms and lives of servicemembers riding atop military vehicles during combat operations.

thumbhole in the composite to ensure the gauntlet moves with the lower arm.

Soldiers also preferred cutting the composite back from the knuckles to the wrist, said Jack Jones, project lead researcher and Sandia physical security specialist.

"This would allow the wearer more dexterity when using the Sandia gauntlets for loading and charging a weapon system, driving or acting as an assistant driver," he said.

Jones said the heat protection characteristics of the Kevlar layers mitigate the thermal effects of warhead blasts on tissue,

while the combination of carbon-composite and Kevlar diminish blunt trauma effects and penetration or shredding effects of shrapnel.

Jones said Army doctors have reported a large increase in soldiers losing their arms above the elbow.

"If the Sandia Gauntlets can protect just one soldier, sailor, airman or Marine from losing an arm, then the effort will be well worth it," he said.

Sandia's next step is to find a company to produce the gauntlets for the military, Jones said.

Stripes editor Pat Dickson contributed to this report from Washington.

U.S. ambassador expresses optimism for Iraq's future

BY RAVI NESSMAN

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The new U.S. ambassador to Iraq said Saturday that the U.S. mission here was now geared toward helping the Iraqi interim government prepare for elections, creating an effective Iraqi security service and rebuilding the country's economy and infrastructure.

In his first press briefing since the United States handed over power to the interim Iraqi government June 28, Ambassador John D. Negroponte said the country faced widespread challenges, but he remained "hopeful" and "optimistic" that the country could become a success story.

"I think all the ingredients for success are there," he told reporters during a luncheon in the fortified Green Zone enclave that houses the U.S. and British embassies.

Negroponte spoke hours after a car bomb attack on Justice Minister Malik Dohan al-Hassan's convoy killed four people.

Al-Hassan was not injured.

The bombing was the latest attempt on the life of a top-level offi-

cial and came amid an ongoing rash of car bombings, gunfights, hostage-taking and other violent attacks continuing throughout the country.

Negroponte runs one of the largest U.S. embassies in the world, with about 1,000 staffers.

The Embassy replaced the Coalition Provisional Authority that ran the country from the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime last year until the transfer of power.

"We are no longer the ultimate political authority in Iraq," Negroponte said.

The United States' mission here now is "to support and assist the government and the people of Iraq as they take full responsibility for the exercise of their sovereignty here," he said.

To accomplish this, the United States would help the government prepare for elections scheduled to take place by the end of January.

It will also continue reconstruction efforts and continue training Iraqi forces so that they could take over the country's security one day, he said.

"The intent is to empower them entirely in this area so that over time an American military presence will not be necessary," he

said, declining to say when the 160,000 troops in the U.S.-led coalition might be able to leave.

The interim government, as part of its efforts to end the 15-month-old insurgency, is proposing a limited amnesty for some of the militants responsible for attacks.

Iraqi officials have said that am-

nesty could extend to those who killed U.S. and other coalition troops.

An early draft of the amnesty law was ambiguous on that issue,

but a new draft would not give those fighters amnesty, Negroponte said.

He declined to say if U.S. pressure forced the change.

Messages of Support



hey, my name is Janelle, and I am 11 years old. I also live in Washington. I just wanted to say that I think you guys are so awesome, sometimes I cry myself to sleep, because of the war, but, I know that you guys will do an awesome job, I wanted to thank you for everything you have done, because I know that it's not easy to fight for our country, but you are, and that is unbelievably awesome! I love you guys!!

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Messages of Support



To ALL of you - "THANK YOU" - You are ALL so very BRAVE and I am grateful to each and every one of you! Remember that you are in my daily thoughts and prayers - and I ask GOD to watch over you and protect you from danger. I ask that he sends you ALL home soon so that you will be able to be with your loved ones. I am PROUD to be an AMERICAN and I continue to fly OUR true RED, WHITE, & BLUE! GOD BLESS - Gail Winters



At a moment's notice

Carrier strike groups test new Fleet Response Plan

BY SCOTT SCHONAUER

Stars and Stripes

ABOARD THE USS ENTERPRISE

American and allied naval forces in the eastern Atlantic Ocean have wrapped up a six-day exercise designed to practice maritime teamwork and test the ability to rapidly deploy.

The U.S. Navy ordered seven carrier strike groups out to sea in June as part of its new Fleet Response Plan, a strategy aimed at making a large number of ships available on a moment's notice.

The USS Enterprise and USS Harry S. Truman carriers and accompanying ships and submarines cruised to the eastern Atlantic off the coast of Morocco to join ships from nine other nations as part of NATO-led Med-shark/Majestic Eagle '04. The multinational drill was the final portion of Summer Pulse '04, a first-of-its-kind exercise involving the deployment of more than three-quarters of the U.S. Navy's 12 carriers.

The Navy's new plan is a major change in the way the fleet deploys to far-flung hot spots. Traditionally, the Navy sent carriers to sea for six months, followed by up to two years in port.

"It's a little bit more of a responsibility for us," said Master Chief Petty Officer Tim Gotkiewicz, command master chief for Carrier Air Wing 1, which deployed aboard the Enterprise. "The bottom line is that in today's world, we can't just work the way we used to. We realize that."

Deploying ships much faster than in the past, something the Navy calls "surging," is supposed to help mold the fleet into a maritime force that can better fight terrorism and respond to future conflicts.

The U.S. Navy and allied forces completed the exercise north of the Spanish Canary Islands on Friday. The training event included 20,000 military personnel on 30 ships and submarines. Eight U.S. surface ships, including the Sixth Fleet's command ship USS LaSalle, participated in addition to two U.S. submarines and two maritime patrol P-3 Orion aircraft. Seven U.S. Air Force tanker aircraft provided fuel for planes.

Part of the training included aircraft dropping inert and live smart bombs on Morocco's Cap D'ora training range near Tan-Tan in the southwest region of the country.

Dropping live ordnance is a rare opportunity for pilots.



PHOTOS BY SCOTT SCHONAUER/Stars and Stripes

U.S. sailors on the flight deck of the Enterprise prepare to launch another aircraft on Monday during the multinational exercise.

"It's pretty realistic, I think," Gotkiewicz said. "We have some people playing enemy forces and we play the good guys. They try to keep everything as realistic as possible. We don't know what the enemy forces are doing. They'll try and run on us and they'll try and penetrate our space and all of that."

At the conclusion of the exercise, commanders planned to put together a list of what went right and what wrong. Sailors found out earlier that there are logistical challenges that go along with deploying so fast. For example, some departments reported that they needed more supplies.

Command Master Chief Petty Officer Robin Spelman, the Enterprise's command master chief, said the Navy is in the "baby phase" of the Fleet Response plan and is learning through this summer's exercise how to improve it.

"People spent a long time planning this out working up to the point we're at right now," he said. "So, we want to make sure this really works and find out what the lessons learned are."

"Once we've done it, we've learned what the lessons learned are, then we go back and refine it."

E-mail Scott Schonauer at: schonauers@mailstripes.osd.mil



Above: A U.S. Navy plane director helps helicopter pilots land aboard the flight deck of the USS Enterprise in the eastern Atlantic Ocean. The carrier and seven other American warships wrapped up a multinational exercise off the coast of Morocco.

Left: A Navy F/A-18 Hornet lands on the flight deck of the Enterprise last week in the eastern Atlantic Ocean.



U.S. sailors on the flight deck of the Enterprise fasten a steamed catapult to a Navy Prowler last week in the eastern Atlantic Ocean during the exercise, which tested the new Fleet Response Plan.

Practice makes perfect



Two United States Air Force Thunderbirds practice during a media day held before the Cold Lake International Air Show on Friday at CFB Cold Lake, Alberta, Canada.

EDMONTON SUN, SEAN KILPATRICK/CP

Group pulls gas info from Web site

BY MICHAEL P. REGAN

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A watchdog group has removed documents from its Web site that detail military research into knockout gases similar to the one used in the deadly 2002 Moscow theater siege after the U.S. Marine Corps warned they could pose a threat to Defense Department employees.

The group, the Sunshine Project, claims the documents indicate that early 1990s Army research into knockout gases, which was canceled because of the Chemical Weapons Convention, was revived by the Pentagon's Joint Non-Lethal Weapons Directorate in the early 2000s.

The Sunshine Project posted an e-mail on its site Thursday it says is from Zachary J. Stewart, a lawyer with the Marine Corps Systems Command, saying the three documents were inadvertently sent to the group after it requested them through the Freedom of Information Act.

Stewart asked that the documents be re-

moved because they "contain sensitive program information as well as personally identifying information that may subject Department of Defense employees to be targeted by hostile groups or organizations," according to the e-mail.

The documents were posted on the group's site in January. It's not clear why the Marines waited until Wednesday to ask that they be removed.

Edward Hammond, director of the U.S. office of the Sunshine Project, said he removed the documents Thursday based on the Marines' contention that DOD employees may be at risk.

Steven Aftergood, who runs the Federation of American Scientists' Project on Government Secrecy, said the government could not legally compel the group to do so.

He said similar requests occur a few times a year, but called this one a "comedy of errors," saying the documents were apparently sent by mistake and were on the Web for months.

Sanford McLaurin, a spokesman for the Marine Corps Systems Command, issued a statement Friday evening saying, "The Marine

Corps is currently coordinating with other DOD agencies to determine what harm, if any, has come from the inadvertent disclosure of the documents." He would not comment further.

The so-called Advanced Riot Control Agent Device (ARCAD) discussed in the documents is similar to the opiate gas that proved deadly when used in a hostage situation in a Moscow theater in 2002, said Hammond.

According to a statement on the group's site, the calmative agent was developed at the Army's Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland. "The weapons were designed to knock out groups of people, in battle and in other situations, presumably including 'rioting' civilians," the statement says. The Pentagon killed the ARCAD project in 1992 in anticipation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, which went into effect in 1997.

However, Hammond says the Pentagon awarded a contract for "Front End Analysis of Chemical Immobilizing Agents" to defense contractor Optimetrics Inc., in 2000 and the project leader was former Aberdeen researcher C. Parker Ferguson, who had pushed the Joint Non-Lethal Weapons Directorate to revive the ARCAD program.

Bulgaria wants to host U.S. or NATO

Eastern Europe state eyes economic upside

The Associated Press

SOFIA, Bulgaria — Local leaders in Bulgaria are volunteering to host U.S. or NATO bases in their communities in hopes of reaping economic gains and improving security, the foreign minister said Friday.

U.S. officials have suggested they may move some troops stationed in Germany to bases in eastern Europe, where Bulgaria and six other ex-communist nations joined NATO in April.

Bulgaria Foreign Minister Solomon Pasi said Friday his ministry has received letters from 35 mayors seeking support for future deployments of U.S. or NATO bases in their communities.

Most of the mayors see the bases as a chance "to improve security and create fresh job opportunities in their regions," Pasi said.

Bulgaria has already declared its readiness to provide training grounds for U.S. troops in the country.

U.S. officials recently toured Bulgaria's Air Force and Army installations.

Bulgaria allowed U.S.-led forces the use of an airport during the campaigns in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The country also has about 500 troops aiding coalition forces in Iraq.

After this month, some 900 American troops will conduct the first-ever U.S. army exercise in Bulgaria.

Bush wants female academy dean

The Associated Press

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — A woman has been nominated to replace a dean at the Air Force Academy who was criticized for failing to recognize a growing sexual assault problem at the school.

President Bush nominated Col. Dana H. Born to replace David A. Wagie, dean of faculty at the academy since 1998, the school announced Friday.

Wagie, who was cleared by the Pentagon of any wrongdoing and faces no disciplinary action, will retire Aug. 1.

If confirmed by the U.S. Senate, Born will be promoted to brigadier general and become the first woman to oversee instruction at the academy, which has about 4,000 cadets, said Capt. Kim Melchor, an academy spokeswoman.

Born, a 1983 graduate, has been professor and

head of the Department of Behavioral Sciences since 2002, overseeing a 35-person academic department. Before that, she commanded the 11th Mission Support Squadron out of Bolling Air Force Base.

If confirmed by the U.S. Senate, Born will become the first woman to oversee instruction at the academy.

A military investigation found that at least 150 sexual assaults and rapes have been reported at the institution since 1993. A Pentagon study released last year found nearly one in five female cadets said they had been sexually assaulted.

Wagie was one of the academy's last remaining top officers who were in charge when the scandal came to light in early 2003. In March 2003, Air Force Secretary James Roche announced Air Force Superintendent Lt. Gen. John Dallager, Commandant Brig. Gen. Tacio Gilbert III and three other leaders would be resigned.

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IN THE STATES

Florida puts red light on trafficking

BY FRED GOODALL

The Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — On a day when President Bush thrust the fight against human trafficking into the national spotlight, his youngest brother, Gov. Jeb Bush, signed legislation outlawing what amounts to modern-day slavery in Florida.

"We're ready to do our part," the Florida governor said Friday in brief remarks made before the President Bush addressed the first national training conference on human trafficking. "It makes Florida dangerous ground for those who would try to exploit another person for profit."



Jeb Bush

Under the new law, Florida makes it a second-degree felony to force people into labor and a first-degree felony to bring minors into sexual trafficking. Anti-trafficking laws exist on the federal level, but supporters of the new state law argued that the federal government has limited resources to track down violators. The new law — hailed by U.S. Attorney General John D. Ashcroft as "landmark" legislation — takes effect in October.

President Bush also lauded Florida's new law and cited a Naples woman for her efforts to curb human trafficking as a victims' advocate for the Collier County Sheriff's Department since 1999.

The Department of State estimates between 18,000 and 20,000 victims are brought to the United States each year.

Florida is believed to be one of the top three destinations, along with New York and Texas, according to the Center for the Advancement of Human Rights at Florida State University, which issued a report on modern-day slavery in Florida in February.

Classified disk found

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. —

A classified floppy disk reported missing from a government nuclear weapons lab was found, but officials were tight-lipped about details surrounding the incident.

The disk was listed as missing during a June 30 inventory at Sandia National Laboratories. The lab said the floppy disk was found from a military organization.

Rob Detry, Sandia's vice president of integrated security and chief security officer, cited a procedural error in the disk's transfer between lab organizations, but lab officials declined to comment on where the disk was found or any other details.

FBI goes door-to-door for terror clues

Bureau questions Muslims about suspicious activities

BY MARY BETH SHERIDAN

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — FBI agents have launched a series of interviews of Muslims and Arab Americans in the Washington area and across the country, hoping to glean information that could prevent a major terrorist attack during this election year.

A few dozen voluntary interviews of community leaders, students, businesspeople and others have been conducted so far, according to attorneys and Muslim activists. Authorities said they do not know how many people will be contacted, but the effort is expected to expand significantly in the next week or so.

The new round of questioning is also far more targeted than an earlier program of voluntary interviews with men from Arab and Muslim countries, which followed the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and was criticized for being ineffective and using profiling.

"This is not a general population. They are identified by intelligence or investigative information," said an FBI official who spoke on condition of anonymity, in line with department policy. He added that the questioning did not signify that the people were under investigation themselves.

The questions being posed vary widely, according to attorneys, activists and interviewees. Several people in California and Arizona have been asked whether they knew anyone who had recently been in the Pakistani border region of Waziristan, regarded as a possible refuge for al-Qaida figures. They were also asked about Abu Nour, which agents identified as a mosque and school in Syria that was popular with American converts to Islam, the attorneys and activists said.

"We were told by the FBI agents that they're concerned there could be a coming

Al-Qaida may be recruiting non-Arabs

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The FBI is warning that the al-Qaida terror network may be recruiting non-Arabs less likely to attract notice as they carry out attacks in the United States and Europe.

Al-Qaida especially wants operatives who have American citizenship or legal U.S. residency status, the FBI's counterterrorism division said in its weekly bulletin to 18,000 law enforcement agencies nationwide.

"Finding operatives with U.S. status would greatly facilitate al-Qaida's ability to carry out an attack within the United States," the bulletin said.

The new warning comes amid a continuous stream of intelligence indicating that al-Qaida is determined to strike the United

threat from people who are recent converts to Islam," said Stacy Tolchin, a San Francisco lawyer who accompanied a Turkish Kurdish immigrant to an interview this week.

Law enforcement officials decided to step up efforts to contact Muslims and Arab Americans because of intelligence reports that al-Qaida is planning a large-scale attack in coming months in the United States, Attorney General John D. Ashcroft said recently.

Law enforcement officials appear to be using different approaches in the interviews. In some cases, they have asked prominent local Muslim figures to simply pass on any helpful information.

Those being sought for interviews appear to represent a broad spectrum. Attorneys and activists said they had heard from students, high-tech professionals, Muslim leaders and others who had been contacted. Most were immigrants, but at least one African American Muslim and some U.S.-born residents were also included.

States in the summer or fall. Officials have said the terror network blamed for the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks hopes to inflict mass casualties again and disrupt the political process.

The FBI bulletin does not mention a possible time, place or method of attack. Security is expected to be especially tight at this summer's political conventions, which begin July 26 with the Democratic Party's gathering in Boston.

Using non-Arabs might make it easier for al-Qaida to circumvent security measures in Europe and the United States, the bulletin said. Of special concern are people with ties to Islamic extremist groups in North Africa and parts of Asia outside the Middle East.

Still, the FBI said, almost all al-Qaida operatives in the past have traveled at least once to South Asia, particularly Afghanistan and Pakistan, for "consultation and training."

Yasser Alamoody, a student at Arizona State University, was surprised to get a visit at home recently from a campus police officer with the local Joint Terrorism Task Force. The 27-year-old student, who is a Yemeni citizen applying for U.S. residency, said that he agreed to the interview and that the officer was friendly and polite.

Alamoody said the questions included whether he knew anyone who had recently returned from Pakistan, anyone who had shown interest in a government building or agency or anyone who had shown extreme hostility toward Americans.

"The questions were just ridiculous," he said. "I said, 'You guys really think you're going to get anywhere with these kind of questions?'" Alamoody said he was puzzled about why he was selected for an interview.

"I don't go to the mosque that often," he said, "unless they have free food."

Dan Eggen contributed to this report.

Stars and Stripes

Messages of Support

★ My husband and I support the troops 100% and pray they will ALL come home to their families safe. Keep up the good work! We welcome any email we may get from the troops. British or American. We Salute You All! Barry and Veronica

★ We support you & we're proud of you. Thank you for making the world a better place.

★ Our hearts and thoughts are with you all! I am proud of all of you and watch your bravery and resourcefulness with a growing sense of amazement! My father was a two-tours of Viet Nam Vet. I can remember still how it felt to have him be so many miles away in harm's way. He is 68 years old now. He made it through. I am so proud of each of you as I was of him...no greater love has any man. Stay safe...we are praying that you will be home soon. Blessed Be, Diane, Las Vegas, NV

★ Dear troops, We here in my household, in Oregon, Ohio, just want to thank you and God bless you for the freedom that you give to us by giving your all and yourself to keep this freedom. Please come home soon, I am praying for your families and you to get home as safe as you can. You are my hero and you are my 4 year old daughters hero, too. God Bless you. Our prayers are with you, Bryan, Mary, and Tyler.

★ Hi Robert, I hope you get this. Your mom told me about this sight and I am sending you a short note to see if you can get it. I am so proud of you! I love you. Stay safe and come home soon. Love, Ginger

★ Hi, I live in La Paz City, Baja California Sur, Mexico and I wish and hope to send my support to all troops in the Persian Gulf in special the US Marines, soldiers, etc that they are in Iraq yet! I'm here hour to hour watching the events in the war...I'm with everybody the boys and girls...Semper fidelis Martin

★ I am not alone...there are many Canadians who support all your efforts! We pray for all the heroes...a safe return home! Thank you for keeping all of us safe. Laurie

★ I know that these are some difficult times, but I don't much about anything else since I'm only 15. Just to let you know my (and many others) prayers are for you, please help us defeat the enemy and come back home with us. I may not know you, and you may not know me, but I'm wishing you guys good luck during this time. Please come back alive. Our prayers are with you all the way from the bottom of our hearts (LK)KNIGHT-

★ To all of you brave men and women who are serving our country, I send thoughts and prayers. I can't imagine the stress of you I would! I hope you all know the silent majority supports your efforts to liberate a country that has been nothing but squashed by an evil, merciless tyrant. Godspeed and I will pray for your safe return. Darlene - Orlando, FL

Cholesterol advice under fire

BY LINDA A. JOHNSON

The Associated Press

TRENTON, N.J. — Most of the heart disease experts who urged more people to take cholesterol-lowering drugs this week have made money from the companies selling those medicines.

Consumer groups on Friday blasted the new cholesterol guidelines as being tainted by the influence of major pharmaceuticals that make drugs such as Lipitor and Pravachol. Last year, drug makers earned \$26 billion worldwide on cholesterol-lowering medicines, the top-selling class of drugs.

The new guidelines issued Monday by the American Heart Association and the federal government were aimed at preventing heart attacks. They were written by nine of the country's top cholesterol experts. All but one have received consulting or speaking fees, research money or other support from makers of the most widely used anti-cholesterol drugs.

The new guidelines would add about 7 million more Americans to the 36 million already encouraged to take the pills to lower their cholesterol, according to Dr. James Cleeman, coordinator of the National Cholesterol Education Program, which drew up the guidelines. Cleeman said that regarded of connections to the

Cholesterol guidelines updated

The National Cholesterol Education Program released updated guidelines on when cholesterol-reducing drugs should be considered. The new optional target LDL for people who are at very high risk for a heart attack is 70, lower than the standard goal of 100 for high risk people.

When to start considering cholesterol drug treatment

LDL cholesterol level:

≥ 190 (or as low as 160) Lower risk group: 0 to 1 risk factor

≥ 100 (optional at less than 100) High risk: Coronary heart disease (CHD) or greater than 20% risk of heart attack in 10 years

≥ 160 Moderate risk: 2+ risk factors

≥ 130 (optional 100 to 129) Moderate high risk: 2+ risk factors

Note: Risk groups are determined by factors that include smoking, hypertension, low HDL cholesterol (< 40), family history of CHD, age (≥ 45 men, ≥ 55 women)

* Moderate high risk: 10-20% chance of heart attack in 10 years

Moderate risk: < 10% chance of heart attack in 10 years

SOURCES: American Heart Association; National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute AP

drug industry, the advice to high-risk heart patients to lower their LDL, or "bad cholesterol," is sound science. The new guidelines were based on results of five drug studies since 2001, and about 80 experts besides the authors reviewed and endorsed them, said Cleeman, who was the only author without financial ties.

But consumer advocates said the failure to make the conflicts of interest clear is inexcusable.

"It's outrageous they didn't provide disclosure of the conflicts of interest," said Merrill Goozner, with the Center for Science in the Public Interest.

"It doesn't mean that their research is wrong," Goozner added, but doctors and the public need to know "that the people who are giving you this advice have their research funded by a party who has a self interest in the outcome of that research."

Judge nixes teen nudist camps without parents

Upholds Virginia law mandating supervision

BY JUSTIN BERGMAN

The Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — A federal judge ruled Thursday a Virginia nudist colony cannot hold its annual summer camp for teenagers without parental supervision.

In denying a motion from the owner of White Tail Park nudist camp, Judge Richard L. Williams said parents or guardians wouldn't interfere with the youngsters' enjoyment at camp. "They are in no way compromised by having a parent in a camper reading 'Gone With the Wind' while their children frolic outside," Williams said.

Camp owner Robert Roche and the American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia had sought to block a state law that denies a license to hotels, summer camps or campgrounds that hold nudist camps for children without their parents or guardians. The law went into effect July 1.

The ACLU is challenging the law; a trial date is pending.

Rebecca Glenberg, attorney for the ACLU of Virginia, argued the state cannot, without just cause, interfere with the rights of parents to decide how

to raise their children. "It can't just be abstract fear based on prejudice and ignorance," she said.

The judge disagreed. "The law merely imposes a restriction that a parent or a legal guardian be present," Williams said. "People who care about their children or grandchildren will make the adjustment to their schedules so their kids can go."

The White Tail Park camp for 11- to 18-year-olds was one of only a few nudist camps in the country where juveniles were allowed to attend without their parents, according to the American Association for Nude Recreation. The others are in Arizona and Florida.

Tim Murtaugh, spokesman for Attorney General Jerry W. Kilgore, said such camps could attract pedophiles and child pornographers, and it was in the state's interest to protect the children who attend.

"In the event of an incident, wouldn't it be nice to have a legal guardian nearby?" he asked.

White Tail opened in southeastern Virginia in 1984. About 1,200 nudists are there at any one time, including about 30 families who live there all year.

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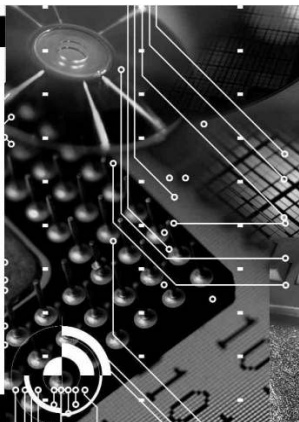


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Martha Stewart addresses the media Friday after being sentenced to prison for lying about a stock sale, at Manhattan federal court in New York. Investors apparently were encouraged by her sentence of five months in prison and five months house arrest — the stock of Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia rose 37 percent Friday.

Stewart's sentence sends stock soaring

Domestic diva nets \$95M as firm's controlling shareholder

BY JAMES F. PELTZ
Los Angeles Times

Martha Stewart's nascent company might have a new recipe for success, courtesy of Stewart herself.

With the lifestyle guru drawing a light sentence Friday, speculation flourished that Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia Inc. could now rebuild its business with the taint of its founder's stock-trading scandal largely behind it.

Investors seemed to agree, as the company's stock soared 37 percent to its highest level since Stewart was convicted in March. The stock rose \$3.17, to \$11.81 a share, as a whopping 17 million shares changed hands on the New York Stock Exchange.

"Assuming she takes her medicine and behaves properly, I don't see any problem" for the company's long-term future, said Alan Siegel, chairman of Siegel and Gale, a consultant on corporate branding. "She and the company will come out of it fine. The major damage was done during the trial."

In an ironic twist, Stewart reaped a \$95 million stock market windfall on the same day she was sentenced to five months in prison and fined \$30,000 for obstructing justice and lying to the government about an earlier stock trade in a separate company.

That's because Stewart remains the controlling stockholder of Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia, even though she resigned as chairman and chief executive after being indicted a year ago.

Stewart owns all of the New York-based company's 30 million

Class B shares, which carry superior voting rights over the Class A shares that are traded on the stock market.

Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia suffered as its founder's problems grew. Its sales and stock price fell, and some advertisers shied away from its flagship Martha Stewart Living magazine and other publications.

The company suffered a \$2.8 million loss in 2003 as its revenue tumbled 17 percent from the prior year, to \$246 million. Its syndicated television show, hosted by Stewart, is scheduled to go on hiatus in September.

But a defiant Stewart, who is appealing her conviction, made her own, unusual sales pitch for the company Friday after being sentenced to five months in prison and five months of detention at her semiannual New York estate. She urged her fans to "show your support by subscribing to our magazines, by buying our products, by encouraging our advertisers to come back in full force to our magazines."

Many customers and advertisers are likely to do just that, especially because it appears Stewart could return with a larger role at Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia within perhaps a year, some analysts and corporate image experts said.

But some analysts have doubts about the company's prospects.

Alissa Goldwasser, an analyst with the William Blair & Co. investment firm, said there was "no closure" and that Stewart actually was prolonging the company's problems by continuing to appeal.

Artifacts may point to Donner camp site

BY SCOTT SONNER
The Associated Press

TRUCKEE, Calif. — Archaeologists have unearthed a cooking hearth at a site in the Sierra where they believe the Donner Party gathered for meager meals in the months before starvation led to the country's most famous tale of cannibalism.

Government and university researchers said Wednesday that bone fragments they located appear to be large enough to allow for DNA testing to determine if they are human. They also found lead shot, musket balls, jewelry beads and wagon parts.

Also, dogs had been trained in criminal investigations repeatedly are signaling the presence of human remains at the site in Tahoe National Forest north of Truckee about 35 miles southwest of Reno.

"There's many, many people... who sincerely believe that this is the site based on the artifacts, the types of artifacts and what we call the archaeological assemblage that is here," Forest Service spokeswoman Carrie Smith said.

Before the latest discovery, researchers had worried they would not find the hearth that they thought would be present at an authentic Donner Party site.

"We are very excited to find what we believe is ground zero for this location," said Julie Schabitsky, co-leader of the dig from the University of Oregon State's Museum of Anthropology. "The big discovery is a definitive hearth."



Archaeologists Mike Kelly, left, and Mark Hale dig Wednesday at the site of what may have been a Donner Party camp near Truckee, Calif.

We also found large pieces of charcoal and pieces of bone 1-1/2 inches long."

Adela Morris of the California-based Institute for Canine Forensics said dogs had been trained to locate where a human body decomposed even if the remains are gone. They have been able to locate soil samples from grave sites 2,000 to 3,000 years old, she said.

The dig is taking place at a picnic area at Alder Creek Camp, where it's believed the George and Jacob Donner families were trapped during the fateful winter of 1846-47.

This summer's dig found the hearth buried about a foot deep in a meadow covered with foot-high wildflowers and surrounded by 100-foot-tall ponderosa pines — much as it looked a century and a half ago when the party found a tract not yet covered by snow.

Although the Donner Party members are famous because starvation reduced them to eating their dead, archaeologists and Donner family descendants said the project is focused on more than cannibalism.

"Cannibalism is part of their story, but it's not the most important part," Lochie Paige, a Sacramento nurse who is a great-great-granddaughter of George Donner, told the Reno Gazette-Journal.

"To me, the real story is how they lived day-to-day, starving in the deep snow, and how terrible that must have been for them," she told the newspaper.

The Donner Party families traveled well in the spring and summer of 1846 to claim free land in California. The party took an unproven "shortcut," and was delayed on the trail in Utah and Nevada. The 81 men, women and children reached the Sierra in late October and were trapped in the snow at two camps, one at Donner Lake and the lower camp at Alder Creek.

About half the pioneers died and some survivors ate the flesh of their dead companions to stay alive. The last survivor, Lewis Keseberg, was brought off the mountain in April 1847.

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Slow sales derail concert tours

By ARI BENDERSEY
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — When it comes to concert tours, the good times are not rolling this summer.

Major acts like Britney Spears, Marc Anthony and Christina Aguilera, as well as large-scale festivals like Lollapalooza, pulled the plug on their tours before they even started.

In some cases personal problems, like Spears' knee injury, were to blame. Anthony said he called off his tour to focus on production of his next album. Industry insiders, however, point to a much bigger issue: falling ticket sales.

"People aren't buying tickets," said Gary Bongiovanni, editor in chief of Pollstar, the concert industry trade magazine. "For whatever reason, ticket sales dried up around the middle of April — it was widespread across the industry."

According to a Pollstar analysis of the top 50 shows through June, gross revenues were up 11 percent to \$753.5 million, but ticket sales were down 2 percent to 12.8 million, with ticket prices up almost 13 percent.

The average price of a ticket shot up from \$26.05 in 1995 to \$50.35 last year, according to Pollstar.

"Ticket prices have gone crazy — very, very, very high, and nobody knows how to change that tide," said veteran concert booker Jonny Poddell.

"When I was a kid, I didn't have to make a big commitment to go to concerts. My children don't have the same discretionary income that I have. When they're excited about a show... and they hear a \$300 price, they get very unexcited."

Donald Law, chairman and co-CEO of Clear Channel Entertainment's music division, which owns or operates 135 venues in North America, admitted that prices are high.



Christina Aguilera performs during the Justified/Freaked Tour in 2003. Only a few weeks after it officially started, this summer's concert season has turned out to be one of the worst in recent history. Major acts like Aguilera, Britney Spears and Marc Anthony pulled the plug on their tours.

"We have provided \$10 and \$20 tickets to many of our amphitheater shows in many of our markets over the last couple of years and we do this in an effort to make tickets accessible for fans," he said.

Tom Gray, whose band Gomez was on the Lollapalooza bill, said he had a feeling the tour might not go off.

"The sheer size of Lollapalooza was really too mammoth to pull off," he said from his home in England. "Kids are likely to wait until the last minute [to buy tickets]. It makes it hard to organize these money spinners where you

have to count on advance sales to pull it off. It's just a shame, really."

And when an artist cancels, the fans aren't the only ones who suffer. Supporting talent on the bill can feel the ripple effect, too.

Sixteen-year-old Canadian newsmen Skye Sweetnam was set to open for Spears. Her debut album is scheduled for a September release on Capitol Records, and the tour could have served as a launching pad for her burgeoning career.

Now, as Sweetnam puts it, she'll have to scramble to pull together a media tour and perform small acoustic shows to get the word out.

"It was kind of disappointing [when Britney hurt her knee] because we had this whole media hype behind the tour. It would have worked really well for a lead-up for my album," Sweetnam said.

Not all tours are doing poorly. Madonna, with a top ticket price of \$300, is selling out nearly every show. Bongiovanni points out that Sting's co-headlining tour with Ann Lennox is selling well in most markets, and the Vans Warped tour, celebrating its 10th anniversary, continues to attract hordes of young fans who love punk music and skateboarding.

The Warped Tour offers tickets for around \$25 to see more than 50 bands at one show.

Promoters took note of the low ticket prices and have followed suit, albeit temporarily. Clear Channel Entertainment recently offered a one-day discount, selling lawn tickets at their Northern California outdoor amphitheaters for any show at \$20 apiece, parking and fees included.

"They sold about 50,000 to 60,000 tickets in one day," Bongiovanni said. "Was it a good move? In the short term, yes. But in the long term, it trains your audience to anticipate deals at the last minute and not buy tickets in advance."

hard work and dedication you have given our country... YOU are truly the reason why... WE HAVE FREEDOM... of living within a Great country... the United States. Keep up with the great work. Amy Mayo

God bless everyone and come home safe. Phyllis

There are no Words. No way to Tell. That is how much my family means to me. I am sure yours means as much to you. My daughter might not have graduated, had there not been men and women like you, willing to fight for us, our freedom, our way of life. Thank you from the bottom of our souls. May God in Heaven bring you home safely. - Karla L.



A pedestrian walks past Paul Revere Beverage on a Sunday earlier this year in Somerville, Mass. Liquor store owners in some Massachusetts communities have the option of staying open Sundays to sell alcoholic beverages. Recent generations of Americans have adapted Sunday traditions to fit a more fast-paced life.

Day of rest now just like the rest

As American life picks up the pace, Sundays lose role as day of leisure

By TED ANTHONY
The Associated Press

Once, within living memory, it was a day apart in many places: a 24-hour stretch of family time when liquor was unavailable, church was the rule, shopping was impossible and — in some towns — weekend staples like tending the lawn and playing in the park met with hearty disapproval.

But America changed, and it dragged Sunday along with it.

Though Sunday still means worship and family time for millions of Americans, today it also means things it once didn't — 12-packs of Bud, the NFL on TV, catching up with the week's accumulated errands, picking up some CDs at Best Buy, moving through a 24/7 culture.

"Today, for a lot of Americans, Sunday's just another day you have to go to work at Wal-Mart," says John Hinshaw, a labor historian at Lebanon Valley College in Annville, Pa.

In a land where the pursuit of happiness is part of the national charter, Sunday's evolution attests to both Americans' hurried lives and their determination to wring every drop of fun out of every day of the week.

The 20th century brought pushes toward a shorter working week, and a major work-reform law passed in the 1930s created more down time and made Sunday less pivotal — at the same time commercial culture really took hold.

Across the nation, laws governing Sunday conduct — some dating to the 17th century — have fallen. In some places, like South Carolina, the changes created a crazy-quilt patchwork that allows some stores to open at some hours while others can't.

In Maine, it wasn't until 1990 that voters repealed a law barring Sunday shopping at supermar-

kets and department stores. In Texas, as late as 1985, everything from kitchenware to air conditioners to curtains couldn't be sold on two consecutive weekend days — a move designed to outlaw them on Sunday.

Today, 31 states permit Sunday sales of liquor, according to the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States. New Jersey-based Commerce Bank — a bank — has focused an entire promotional campaign around doing business on Sundays.

"We've erased a lot of the distinctions between night and day, between weekday and weekend," says Susan Orlean, author of "Saturday Night in America," a 1990 book. "Our notions of time and space are collapsing."

In 2000, a Parade-commissioned study found 70 percent of Americans say they do what they want on Sundays. An overwhelming 90 percent like Sunday more than or as much as any other day of the week, and 92 percent said they spent time with family. The margin of error was 2 percent.

It seems, then, that what's changed about Sunday is not the idea — rest, relax, recharge the batteries — but the content. While traditional activities remain, the do-it-yourself culture of commerce and communication means that downtime has been redefined upward.

Sunday is no longer, as the writer H.L. Mencken put it, merely "a day given over by Americans to wishing that they themselves were dead and in Heaven, and that their neighbors were dead and in Hell."

"Maybe maintaining the idea of time having some relevance may actually become more meaningful," Orlean says. "I'm not sure that people really want to live in a universe in which there's no day and night, no week and weekend. I don't know that that gives us anything."

Stars and Stripes

Messages of Support

We know its tough... and can see how rugged it is.....but so are you.....hang in there..... our freedom from these maniacs throughout the world depends on you.....YOU WILL DO IT.....and we love and thank you.....can never thank you enough....you have the complete support of our nation.....God speed.....the Millers from Australia.

I SALUTE THE SOLDIERS OF AMERICAN WHO ARE FIGHTING FOR OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS. GOD BLESS AMERICA, GOD BLESS BRITAIN AND OTHER SUPPORTING COUNTRIES JOINING THE GULF. SINCERELY, CHIMEX

Hello... and Thank you... from Reno, NV. To everyone who is serving... my thoughts and prayers go out to each and everyone of you. We appreciate your



A gray wolf is shown Friday in Forest Lake, Minn., after U.S. Interior Secretary Gale Norton announced the gray wolf should be removed from federal protection from Maine to the Dakotas.

Wolf protection effort called 'success story'

Federal care no longer needed, agency says

BY STEVE KARNOWSKI

The Associated Press

FOREST LAKE, Minnesota — Standing in front of a pen with six gray wolves, a U.S. Cabinet minister said it was time to celebrate the predator's dramatic comeback by removing it from federal protection in the northern United States from Maine to the Dakotas.

The gray wolf, also known as the timber wolf, has bounced back from the brink of extinction in the lower 48 states over the past 30 years under federal protection. Their numbers have grown from as few as 350, all in northeastern Minnesota, to almost 4,000 spread across several states.

"The recovery of wolf populations in the Rockies and the Great Lakes area has been one of the most notable success stories of the Endangered Species Act," Interior Secretary Gale Norton said. She spoke at the Wildlife Science Center that's home to 41 wolves.

As Friday's news conference drew to a close, one wolf started to howl, joined soon by others across the center. They were loud enough to drown out a speaker.

Not everyone agreed with Norton's announcement.

The National Wildlife Federation criticized the plan as short-sighted because it means the federal government won't be involved in any efforts to reintroduce the wolf in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and New York, which the group says have suitable habitat.

Norton said any reintroduction there would be up to the states themselves.

She compared the recovery to that of an intensive care patient. "It is a wonderful success," she said. "It is a tremendous achievement for all of those who have been involved in this process."

The states most affected by Friday's announcement are Minnesota, which has the largest wolf population in the lower 48 states at around 2,400, Wisconsin with upward of 370 and Michigan with an estimated 360. Those states will take over management of their own wolf populations, with federal oversight for five years.

"Wolves have survived in spite of centuries of relentless persecution by humans," said Walter Medwid, executive director of the International Wolf Center.

"But unlike the bald eagle or the peregrine falcon, the wolf, being the wolf, will continue to challenge our commitment in keeping it a part of America's landscape."

The Interior Department upgraded the gray wolf's status from endangered to threatened everywhere in the lower 48 states last year except for the Southwest, where a subspecies, the Mexican gray wolf, is still struggling.

While gray wolves have been making a comeback in Wyoming, Montana and Idaho since they were reintroduced into Yellowstone National Park in the mid-1990s, the federal agency has not been able to agree with those states on management plans. The wolf will remain classified as threatened in the West and endangered in the Southwest for now.

Norton's announcement started a 120-day public comment period. She said her department plans to issue its final rule late this year or early next year — and she expects it will be challenged in court.

Historically, the gray wolf's range stretched from Canada to Mexico, including most of the United States.

It's a juggle out there

Festival draws 650 to show, hone craft

BY CAROLYN THOMPSON

The Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Everything — from rings to balls to clubs — was up in the air as hundreds of professional and amateur jugglers from across the globe turned out for their annual gathering.

Lending a carnival atmosphere to the Buffalo Convention Center, some 650 jugglers honed their craft in dizzying displays of coordination and timing Friday, the fifth day of the weeklong International Jugglers Association Juggling Festival 2004.

"There is nothing about it that is any more difficult than riding a bicycle," insisted Jerry Martin. "And it's the same thing — once you learn, you can't forget how to juggle."

Forget no, but there is always room for improvement, said jugglers, who, between competitions, attended workshops on such things as club-passing, whip-cracking, baton-twirling and fire safety.

The association, which mails its bimonthly magazine to roughly 2,000 households worldwide, has strict rules at its annual convention. Unicycles are OK, but fire, bowling balls and sharp objects are not. The association also insists visitors sign a safety waiver. What goes up must come down, after all.

One open practice session had a man juggling seven Frisbee-sized rings before bobbing and weaving to catch them in a stack around his neck. Nearby, two women kept neon pink hula hoops in play around their waists as they swapped balls in the air, and a man balanced a bowling pin-shaped club upright on his forehead while juggling three others.

"Yeah, yeah. Keep practicing. It's coming," coached expert Jay Gilligan as a student struggled through a maneuver during a three-day workshop.

With patterns based on height of the throw, rhythm and timing, juggling is often a sport for the math-minded, group members said. They pointed to a good number of computer programmers, statisticians and mathematicians in their ranks.



Nate Martin, right, and Kelvin Ying, both 11, juggle a dozen balls at the International Juggling Association convention held in Buffalo, N.Y., on Friday.

"There are nerds who enjoy the technical side and artsy types who enjoy the expressive side," said Harrisburg, Pa., college student John Chase. The math major practiced with a diabolo, a yo-yo-like contraption spun on a string connected by two handles.

"It's a beautiful meeting of the two," he said.

Sue Durante, a baton-twirler while growing up, got bit by the juggling bug after watching a juggler open for magician Doug Henning. Now, nothing is off-limits at home — oranges, apples, eggs, hats.

"It's fun. It keeps you moving. It's athletic. It's good brain exercise, the eye-hand coordination," she said.

Stars and Stripes

Messages of Support

★ To all the men and women serving overseas. Thank You. This war is very difficult to watch from home. I can't imagine what you all are going thru. Debra and John from San Jose, CA

★ Dear BRAVE Men & Women of the World's GREATEST Armed Forces...Just a little note to say a GREAT BIG THANK YOU for what you are doing to keep our Country the way we want it & know it; fighting for a just cause so that we might keep the Freedoms so many of us people believe in! My family and I pray DAILY for you and wish you a speedy campaign so that you can come back home where you BELONG! GOD BLESS YOU ALL! — Xochille —

★ We support you & we're proud of you. Thank you for making the world a better place.

★ Hi Mikey, Just wanted to say Hi and that we miss you and love you much. Aunt Melba, Aunt Max and the rest of

the family send their love and prayers to you and the rest of the troops. All of you are supported and prayed for by friends and family. Especially you, we are wrapped in the arms of prayer. We love you, Mom, Dad, Buffy and Sky

★ I would like to wish all the coalition soldiers fighting in Iraq all the best and to know that there are many of us in the UK thinking of you at this difficult time. I hope you all come home safe. Ali from Inverness, Scotland

★ Every morning, every night, and every spare moment in between, I watch TV and read via Internet, with amazement, the eyewitness news from Iraq. I never knew so many heroes actually existed outside of Hollywood films. Words cannot adequately express my respect, admiration and gratitude for your dedication, bravery, and discipline. Your actions touch my heart and soul. You are incredible men and women, and I pray for your safe return to your friends and courageous families. Gratefully yours, Judy K. from Walnut Creek, California

Mother sues state

FL MIAMI — The mother of a boy who was allegedly stomped to death by his father sued the state Wednesday for placing the 5-year-old in the man's care despite his criminal record.

The Department of Children & Families violated the civil rights of Zachary Bennett, who died April 2003 of a ruptured liver bleeding brain and broken ribs, the lawsuit said.

Christopher Bennett, 29, was charged with first-degree murder and aggravated child abuse in the death. He has pleaded innocent.

Bennett had an extensive criminal record that included 11 arrests for battery, domestic violence and selling cocaine.

Pipeline violations fine

AZ PHOENIX — A company whose gas pipeline broke last summer, causing a shutdown that led to shortages in the Phoenix area, would be fined \$325,000 for separate safety violations under a proposal by federal regulators.

Houston-based Kinder Morgan Energy Partners was cited for 11 violations in inspections in 2003, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Research and Special Programs Administration said Thursday.

The violations included failure to explain why older, welded pipes and the potential for cracking were excluded as risk factors in company safety planning.

An administrative judge must decide whether to approve the fine.

He fought the law

NY WATERTOWN — A 40-year-old man has been charged with assault, accused of repeatedly throwing a prosecutor to the ground, then choking a crime victim's advocate outside City Hall.

According to police, Brian A. Tucker, of Watertown, faces two third-degree assault charges, felony third-degree weapon possession for a folding knife locked open on a nearby bench, and fourth-degree criminal mischief for tearing the prosecutor's jacket and pants.

Assistant District Attorney Timothy Virkler, 28, had a cut chin and scraped knees, elbows and face, while Elizabeth Dominguez, 23, of the Jefferson County Victims Assistance Center, had marks on her neck, police reports said.

Unpopular plate wins

KY FRANKFORT — Kentucky's highly unpopular license plate featuring a smiling, rising sun has outshined the competition in a national contest.

The Automobile License Plate Collectors Association gave the 2003 Best License Plate Award to Kentucky, which introduced the new design last year. An award ceremony was held Tuesday at the Transportation Cabinet in Frankfort.

Kentucky beat out Maine's special-issue lobster plate 80-79 among 513 votes cast by association members. The "God Bless



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

America" special-issue plate in Texas received 77 votes. It was Kentucky's first top finish in the contest.

Race dogs drugged

RI PROVIDENCE — Four greyhounds that raced at the dogtrack at Lincoln Park have tested positive for cocaine, another public relations blow for the gambling center that is being investigated by federal authorities for allegedly plotting bribes.

The discoveries were made in December, February and March, when the dogs showed trace amounts of benzoyllecgonine, a compound created by the metabolic breakdown of cocaine, in their systems.

Officials with the state Department of Business Regulation told The Providence Journal they have no idea how it happened, though one advocate for the dogs' welfare said it may have been caused by a drug user touching the dog's food. No one has been disciplined.

Sleepy juror stalls case

VA STAFFORD — A Stafford County juror who fell asleep in court and triggered a mistrial June 30 will not be punished.

"In this case, the judge reassured the juror that he wasn't in trouble, and that was the end of it," said George Elsassner, the Stafford County prosecutor involved in the case. The juror's name was not released.



Path of destruction

The path of destruction from powerful storms is shown in this aerial photograph taken of the Country Squires Estates development in Cambeltown, Pa.

leased. If the juror had misbehaved and ignored warnings from the judge, he may have been held in contempt of court, Elsassner said. But the juror was cooperative.

The Circuit Court trial ended when Judge Ann Hunt-er Simpson was told the young juror had slept through a portion of the prosecution's case against 42-year-old Linwood Collins, court records show. Collins, a Washington resident, is charged with grand larceny and breaking and entering.

A new trial was scheduled for Oct. 26.

No school plot charges

LA GONZALES — Authorities will not pursue criminal charges against two high school students accused of plotting to kill classmates and teachers in a recreation of the 1999 Columbine massacre.

A grand jury decided Tuesday there was insufficient evidence to put the teens on trial.

"We are not going to pursue the case further unless new evidence is discovered," said Tony Faltermann, district attorney in Ascension Parish, southeast of Baton Rouge.

No weapons were ever tied to Christopher Levins, 17, or Adam Sinclair, 19. They were charged in January with one count each of terrorizing, a felony that carries a maximum sentence of 15 years.

Juliet loves Juliet?

MA BOSTON — An audience mesmerized by the ongoing drama of Romeo and Juliet, two mute swans with a nestful of eggs in the Boston Public Garden, have been disappointed by the denouement: the eggs didn't hatch, and the two swans may actually both be females.

Juliet, or perhaps both Juliets, began laying eggs around May 21, and swan watchers have gathered behind a fence to watch the baby swans — called cygnets — emerge sometime between late June and Sunday.

But the eggs never hatched, and one by one, the eggs disappeared in recent days, going from nine to one on Wednesday. Parks Department officials speculated that the swans may have kicked them into the water.

Alleged tough love fatal

MI DEARBORN — A retired doctor who apparently tried to stop his alcoholic brother from drinking by chaining him in his home has been charged with murder after the brother asphyxiated.

The brother was found in his basement with the chain wrapped around his neck, authorities said Thursday.

Merle Rydesky, a retired emergency room doctor, appeared in district court Thursday to face charges of open murder and kidnapping, both of which carry a maximum penalty of life in prison. He was freed on \$50,000 bail.

Prosecutors said Rydesky confined his 57-year-old brother James in the basement by wrapping a 30-foot chain around his neck.



Finally open

The Las Vegas Monorail passes near the Stratosphere Hotel and Casino. Tourism officials are betting as many as 20 million visitors a year will use the rail to shuttle between hotels in Las Vegas.



Watchin' the ships roll in

An unidentified man watches sailboats travel about Newport (R.I.) Harbor in front of the Newport Bridge.



Celebrating heritage

From left, Mariangela Cordero, 10; Daniela Cordero, 9; and Daniela Giulianelli, 3, enjoy the day at the Venezuelan Festival in Miami.



High waters

Tom Krausman wades through flood waters in Haver De Grace, Md.



Perfect 10

Cappuccino, a 4-year-old border collie from Las Vegas, catches a flying disc in midair above a pool of water during the Purina Incredible Dog Team show long dog jump contest in Stone Mountain, Ga. The other border collie is really an image on the lining of the pool.



Demolition time

A worker sprays water to keep down dust as a claw on an excavator rips apart Building 771 at the former Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant near Golden, Colo.

Board official ignored

MA BOSTON — The battle over control of the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority took a strange turn at a meeting last week when board member Christy Mihos' seat was deemed vacant, even though he was in it.

The meeting was called for a single vote on approving Turnpike funding for the Greenway planned in downtown Boston. Chairman Matthew Amorello called for a vote, which was recorded as unanimous in favor of the funding, even though Mihos loudly called "Nay," the Boston Herald reported.

"This is like we're in Mother Russia back in the '80s ...," Mihos said.

Mihos is an ally of Gov. Mitt Romney, who wants to merge the Turnpike Authority into state government, which would cost Amorello his job.

Pricey Heisman

FL FORT MYERS — A Florida family will sell the original Heisman Trophy for about \$1.25 million, according to attorney Kevin Jursinski. He says the plaster original of the Heisman Trophy was created by the late Frank Eliscu in 1935 and isn't for public auction. Jursinski says he and the family chose 150 influential sports and business people as potential buyers.

Taste of Sweden

MN BLOOMINGTON — About 2,000 shoppers were waiting in line when Swedish retailer Ikea opened its first Minnesota store with Swedish dancing, Swedish songs and Swedish meatballs. Some shoppers spent three nights waiting outside for a chance to win one of the free chairs offered to the first 100 customers. Ikea sells ready-to-assemble furniture and other inexpensive home furnishings.

Covering up tattoos

CA SAN DIEGO — The police chief in the nation's seventh-biggest city has ordered a ban on his own officers' tattoos.

Effective Wednesday, San Diego police officers with "excessive" body art must cover it up with long sleeves or turtlenecks while on the job. Hot summer temperatures won't be an excuse.

The new policy, outlined in a five-page memo, is expected to affect half a dozen of the department's more than 2,000 officers, police spokesman Dave Cohen said.

Female attorney general

NH CONCORD — Kelly Ayotte, New Hampshire's first female attorney general, was sworn in. She replaced Peter Heed, who resigned amid allegations of misconduct at a state-sponsored conference in May. Heed was cleared of any criminal wrongdoing.

Death by metal wire

TX DALLAS — A man was crushed to death by a bale of metal wire early Thursday at a commercial metals dealer, authorities said.

The 39-year-old worker was guiding a truck as it was backing

up at Liberty Commercial Metals in Dallas, said Dallas Fire-Rescue spokesman Lt. Jesse Garcia.

The worker accidentally bumped into a stack of four heavy bales of metal wires, Garcia said. The top bale toppled over and instantly crushed him to death.

No one else was hurt.

The man's name was not immediately released.

Portable potty as muse

MO ST. LOUIS — Sometimes inspiration can strike in the most mundane of places. For Isaac Newton, it was an apple tree. For Mike Mason, it was a portable toilet.

Mason was standing in a long line to use the facilities at a softball tournament when he was struck with a thought: Wouldn't it be more pleasant to urinate at a beer can instead of a portable toilet? The 45-year-old has formed MediCan Inc. to turn portable toilets into advertising venues.

Mason says he wants to attract the attention of companies like Anheuser-Busch Cos., PepsiCo Inc., and other firms that sell products in cylindrical shapes. Their advertising messages can be put on 8-foot-tall replicas of soda or beer cans, pill bottles, or batteries. So far, Mason hasn't had any takers.

Disappearing doors

NY NEW YORK — Police were investigating the disappearance of four security doors that were bought by the department but never installed at police headquarters.

The doors, which cost the police department nearly \$200,000, were delivered on June 28, 2001, but were too heavy for the floor at 1 Police Plaza.

Police spokesman Deputy Commissioner Paul Browne said Wednesday paperwork documenting what happened to the doors had not been found. He said it was unclear who ordered them.

Fatal family accident

TX BALMORHEA — A van filled with family members going to a wedding overturned on a West Texas highway, killing a Los Angeles woman and three of her grandchildren.

The Texas Department of Public Safety said three other people were injured in the one-vehicle rollover along Interstate 10 Wednesday night. A fourth was cut by glass after the wreck.

The van was one of three traveling together from Los Angeles to Houston for a wedding, said DPS spokeswoman Lisa Block.

The dead were identified as 44-year-old Edna Tyars and her grandchildren, 4-month-old Kaymire Zaire Lytle, 7-year-old Stephan Tyars and 14-year-old Sherese Tyars.

Tanning peeper

GA DALTON — Curt Byers was sentenced to five years in prison for videotaping females as they undressed at a tanning salon. Byers, 36, pleaded guilty to filming five females, including a 15-year-old, as they undressed and used a tanning bed. Byers also pleaded guilty to possession of marijuana at the time of his May 4 arrest.

Photos and stories from The Associated Press

IN THE STATES

Teachers accused of abandoning students

None were among 90 killed as India school burned

BY S. SRINIVASAN

The Associated Press

KUMBHAKONAM, India — Government officials accused teachers of abandoning students to a fire that turned a crowded, ill-equipped elementary school in southern India into a deathtrap for at least 90 children.

None of the 23 teachers died in the Friday blaze at the private Lord Krishna School, which was packed with about 800 students ages 6-13. Some were in rooms shared by up to six classes at a time.

The fire broke out about 11 a.m. in the kitchen and jumped across the thatched roofs of the three-story school in Kumbakonam, about 200 miles southwest of the southern city of Madras.

Residents started dousing the flames and trying to rescue children. Those efforts were apparently hampered by the school's narrow, steep stairs and few exits. The crowd of volunteer rescuers ended up blocking the main door as they tried to help.

The fire brought down the roof of bamboo logs and coconut leaves onto the children trapped inside. A reporter for New Delhi Television News described marks on the walls that he said showed the children tried to tear through the bricks and concrete in their desperation.

By Friday, 45 of the dead had been cremated as is the custom in much of India. Officials lowered the number of injured — earlier put at more than 100 — to 22. Eleven of the injured were hospitalized, one in critical condition. Selvam, who uses only one name, cried inconsolably on Saturday as he was unable to find his eight-year-old son studying at the school even 24 hours after the disaster.

Police locked the school building as they began investigating the cause of the fire.

The tragedy exposed the downside of India's "economic reforms" program, which saw a proliferation of ill-equipped private schools as the government cut spending on education to curtail its budget deficit.

Most private schools are in crowded buildings that often lack basic safety measures such as fire alarms and sprinkler systems. They rarely have playgrounds, athletic fields or open space.

The school's principal was arrested Saturday, along with his wife and daughter, who helped run the school. Four education department officials were suspended. Two kitchen workers who were preparing lunch were also arrested and police said they intended to charge the five with criminal negligence.

"This is entirely due to criminal negligence on the part of the school management and the district school authorities," said J. Jayalalitha, head of government in Tamil Nadu state, where the fire occurred.

The death toll rose to 90 as six more children succumbed to burn injuries at a government hospital, Radhakrishnan said Saturday. No teachers died, and a senior fire officer said it was because they abandoned the children and ran from the burning school.

"As soon as the fire started, the teachers had escaped, leaving the children behind," the official told AP, speaking on condition of anonymity. "It was the local people who saved at least 80 children from the third floor before the roof came down."

But the district government administrator said it was too early to know, noting that about 700 children got out alive — probably helped by teachers. In the wake of Friday's fire, the state government has ordered inspection of all schools for compliance of safety norms, Radhakrishnan said.



M. Selvi, right, relative of Kanaka Priya, 7, and Kirti Wasan, 12, who both died in the India school fire, grieves at their graves.

Stars and Stripes

Messages of Support



Hi my name is Elizabeth. I'm going to be 17 years old this month. I am the daughter of a Pastor and I wanted to let you know that we are praying for all of you. There isn't a day that goes by that I don't pray to God to keep you safe and to give you the strength you need. I admire each and every one of you for having the courage to go and fight this war. I pray that God sends his angels and puts them a step in front of you. I know he is watching over you and that his grace and mercy is with you. We had a vigil in my church recently, and we prayed for all of you and your families. When I found this e-mail address my heart jumped for joy because I wanted to let you know that you are in my prayers and that I appreciate what you do. I know I haven't met any one of the men and women who are there but I wanted to express myself to you. I hope that you find comfort in my words and that if I can do anything for you any message you need delivered I will do it. May God keep blessing you and helping you. With all my heart I hope you receive as much as you have sacrificed.



K. Tinsley, Hi baby, if you get to read this just know we love you and miss you but above all we are so very proud of you. Be strong and hurry home. With all our love, Your Proud Wife, Tyler, Tanner and baby Trevor!

When you feel a gentle breeze
Caress you when you sigh
It's a hug sent from Heaven
From a loved one way up high.
If a soft and tender raindrop
Lands upon your nose
They've added a small kiss
As fragile as a rose.
If a song you hear fills you
With a feeling of sweet love
It's a hug sent from Heaven
From someone special up above.
If you awaken in the morning
To a bluebird's chirping song
It's music sent from Heaven
To cheer you all day long.
If tiny little snowflakes
Land upon your face
It's a hug sent from Heaven
Trimmed with Angel lace.
So keep the joy in your heart
If you're lonely my dear friends
Hugs that are sent from Heaven
A broken heart will mend.

Palestinian premier submits resignation

BY MOHAMMED DARAGHMEH

The Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank — In a day of sweeping changes in the Palestinian leadership, the prime minister submitted his resignation and two senior officials were replaced, as Yasser Arafat streamlined his security forces — a key U.S. and Israeli demand for moving the deadlocked peace process forward.

The shake-up followed a wave of kidnappings in the Gaza Strip.

"There is a crisis. There is a state of chaos in the security situation," said Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia, after telling his Cabinet that he had given his resignation to Arafat, president of the Palestinian Authority.

Qureia, who has been in the post for 10 months, has been unable to carry out reforms in the Palestinian Authority to root out corruption — as long as Arafat remained the dominant power in the Palestinian territories.

He also has been frustrated by the failure to renew any peace process with Israel, say officials close to him. No Israeli-Palestinian summit was held during Qureia's time as prime minister.

Qureia sent his resignation letter to Arafat through an aide before meeting his cabinet. Arafat scrawled a giant "X" over the paper with a pen and told the prime minister he refused to accept it, said a Palestinian official.

Qureia told his cabinet afterward that he would not withdraw the resignation, said Jamal Shobaki, a local government minister.

The cabinet will reconvene Monday to continue deliberations, the prime minister said.

Officials said the cabinet meeting grew stormy at times. The interior minister, who is in charge of police and apparently was not consulted about the changes in the security infrastructure, walked out midway.

Israel had no comment on the swiftly unfolding events in Gaza and the West Bank. But Israel Army Radio quoted officials as saying the instability demonstrated again that Israel had no viable negotiating partner and must move forward with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan to unilaterally withdraw the army and settlers from Gaza next year.

But the chaotic events also was likely to encourage opponents of Sharon's plan who claim Israel cannot leave a security vacuum in Gaza and must stay.

Although failing to agree on the prime minister's future, Arafat and Qureia approved a series of steps to bring more than a dozen disparate security services under a more unified command.

They consolidated the services into three branches, but all will remain under Arafat's control. The specifics of the restructuring were not announced.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

What being scared means

Have you ever been scared about sad moments? I'm always scared because my dad is in Iraq.

According to Webster's dictionary, scared means frightened. If you think about that, you will think about times you have been frightened. Even though people say that they have no fear, I'm sure that they have been frightened before.

Being scared is like having a black hole take over your heart. It's also like the devil. Think about it! If you ever felt like a devil or demon had taken over your heart, they would know just how terrible it seems.

Some people that most perfectly fit the word "scared" or "scary" are Saddam Hussein, Osama bin Laden and Adolf Hitler. All those people are evil because they have all started wars and they aren't tolerant.

When I say scared, I don't mean by monsters, goblins or zombies. Anyway, they don't even exist. If I say scared, I mean things that have to do with your personal life. Say your house is on fire, or your dad is fighting in Iraq. All those are monstrous, personal feelings. Maybe you have had a personal happening or personal feeling that was scary, terrifying and maybe horrifying. If you have, I'm sure that plenty of emotional feelings came into your mind.

Six months ago, I received horrible news that my dad was going to Iraq. After he got on the plane we were worried sick.

Every night and morning a soldier died. My dad's camp is attacked almost everyday. My mom calls the camp to see if my dad had been hurt or anybody from his unit was hurt. Unfortunately, he is in the camp that is attacked the most in Iraq. Luckily, he isn't one of the soldiers who goes up to fight like a Ranger or Marine.

He has to repair helicopters.

There are three simple ways not to be scared. One, you'll want to be with your friends because you want to get all the scary stuff out of your mind. Two, try to be so busy that you don't even think about it, because you can get that stuff out of your mind. Three, be as brave as you possibly can because if you try to be brave, the fear won't control you. If you don't try to

Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

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be brave, your scared feelings will control you.

Frigate can be a very big thing, but it's a lot better when you know that God is protecting and watching over the person you love.

Zach A. DeBoard, 10 years old

Bloomfield, N.Y.

Yes, we did Bush

After reading "We didn't elect him" (July 10), I had to chuckle. Did the writer really write these things? Does he really believe that? Hmm, let me take a closer look.

"We didn't elect him. It was the barest majority of the Electoral College that elected him..." That is semi-correct. The popular vote doesn't elect the president, only the electoral vote. That is the way the country is founded and has worked in every other election year we have had. As I recall, there were numerous recounting of the popular votes in Florida and the result came out pretty much the same each time. We did elect the president. If we had not elected him, someone else would be in office right now.

"It is unfortunate that a man of such limited abilities, unchosen for the job to begin with..." How does one figure that President Bush has limited abilities? Presi-

dent governor of Texas an important position? How about owner of the Texas Rangers Baseball team? Unchosen for the job? There are only two ways to become president of the United States: be chosen in an election, or be the vice president if the president dies.

"But the fact remains that this same man squandered the good will and cooperation of the world..." Come now, you really buy into that? Most of the world was not cooperating in the first place.

"Diverting the war on terrorism?" The war in Iraq and Afghanistan is nothing but a war on terrorism. And who all voted to go into Iraq war? Both houses of Congress.

"It is this sense of lost opportunities that anyone would have been better than what we got that is so depressing." What would be depressing is if we had anyone other than who we have.

And finally, tax relief for billionaires. I, nor one I know that has received the tax benefits of Bush is a billionaire. I am a soldier. All of the soldiers I knew of at the time received a check in the mail as an added tax return a few years back.

What I suggest to all in the coming elections: Don't listen to the media at all. Do your own simple research. Search out the pros and cons of the issues that are really important to you (more if you need to have the time) and look to see what the candidates' stance are on those issues. Then vote, because the candidate that has your best interest in mind.

Don't take my word, or the word of the media. Stand up for yourself and vote. Because your vote does count.

Rich Everett

Baumholder, Germany

More than the Moores

God bless these troops. I support every effort they are doing. I know they are the best of the best. I hope the troops know this — it's hard when all they hear is the Michael Moores of late.

The truth is, the majority of Americans know and understand their cause. The media just don't get that yet; they will on Nov. 2.

Kelli Swisco

Ft. Snipe, Texas

DOONESBURY

by G.B. Trudeau



OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

New regs: Port of good call
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Ever since the 9/11 attacks, the possibility has loomed that terrorists might slip a bomb or some other deadly device into the United States aboard a ship arriving through one of the nation's 361 sea and river ports. ...

Oddly, though, for all the hype about homeland security, Congress and the Bush administration have moved slowly to counter this threat, allocating less than 5 cents for water port security for every dollar spent on security measures at airports.

Fortunately, some of that imbalance has now been addressed with the recent imposition of provisions of ... the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code. ...

Ships [now] are required to have security officers, and vessels will be monitored by a new identification system. Ports must be notified in detail of the contents of incoming cargo shipments 24 hours in advance, and the facilities are getting more guards, fences and closed-circuit cameras for protection. ...

Considering the threat, however, these measures are justified, even though they will cost an estimated \$10 billion at ports in the States alone. Given the general lack of security up to this point, some security experts have expressed surprise that an attack hasn't already taken place at a port. ...

This will mean, incidentally, that shipments of goods will be held up in the coming weeks and months. ... A little delay, however, is preferable to what might happen if the security measures aren't strictly enforced.

Stars & Stripes & diamonds
Herald-Star, Steubenville, Ohio

Major League Baseball's image problems just don't improve.

Faced with questions since the 1980s about escalating salaries, drug abuse, the owners' belligerent labor problems and steroid usage, the league has an act that needs to be cleaned up.

But the league often adds to its own woes by sticking to its rules.

Take the case of Keith Foulke. The Boston Red Sox reliever had an American flag put on his baseball cap as a way to support the servicemen and women serving overseas.

The league's labor agreement says players cannot make personal changes to uniforms.

They agree that to maintain the proper look of a baseball team that the uniforms must all be the same.

Why not make the flag part of every uniform? Every team? That just makes a baseball get at least one streak off its tarnished image.

Clean up dirty campaigning
Columbia Basin Herald,
Moscow, Wash.

Are we truly ready for another election? The ballot is ready. Bush-Cheney versus Kerry-Edwards. The question is, are we ready? Politics and elections in general, and as a rule, are contentious affairs, so it should not be surprising if this one becomes a testy race. However, there are reasons to believe this particular battle for the White House might leave more than a few wounded along the way.

The country is perilously reaching levels of division and animosity not seen since the early 1970s. Labeling and name-calling are the main sports of this one pundit as well as of the average citizen.

It is under this climate that the average voter is expected to wisely and rationally choose the next president of the United States.

A daunting task to say the least.

OK, MR. FARNSWORTH... I'M GIVING YOU A PRESCRIPTION FOR OXIMOXILOXADINE AND A PRESCRIPTION FOR A STRONG TRANQUILIZER TO TAKE WHEN YOU SEE HOW MUCH THE OXIMOXILOXADINE COSTS -



It would be, therefore, the responsibility of those whose names appear on the ballot to not add more heat to the simmering cauldron that is American politics today. Trouble is, prudence and measured words do not win elections these days. Snappy slogans and sound bites do. ...

On our way to choosing our leader for the next four years, Americans must realize that no amount of bitterness or venom evoked during the ills of this nation. They were cured by action, commitment and not a small amount of compromise. One side cannot allow to be wrong any more than the other side can always be right. ...

If we let this election turn us into a nation of enemies, the outcome will be negative regardless of who gathers the most votes.

On the trail of 'campaigners'
Chicago Tribune

If the Democrats who championed the McCain-Feingold campaign finance law have any lingering doubts about whether it puts an unconstitutional damper on political speech, consider the impact it may have on their friend Michael Moore. The Washington-based conservative group Citizens United filed a complaint with the Federal Election Commission, arguing that advertising for Moore's film "Fahrenheit 9/11" will be in violation of the campaign finance law after July 30.

How's that? So because the law strictly regulates independent expenditures on political advertising that refers to candidates in the weeks before a political convention or election, Citizens United says that the ads for the film, which portray President Bush in a very unflattering light, should come under control of the law.

The organization's FEC complaint says that the corporate funding of the ads, and the failure to follow campaign finance disclosure rules, will be illegal. That's not as preposterous as it may sound. The FEC's general counsel found last month that movie ads probably would not qualify for an exemption from the law.

After briefly mulling over their general counsel's opinion, the FEC members decided to deny a final decision. ...

Nevertheless, this is more clear evidence that McCain-Feingold poses a threat to free speech. The government should not be in the position of determining what is permissible political dialogue.

[This complaint points to the dangers of campaign rules that give the government

power to decide what political debate you can hear and when you can hear it.

Drug bill will cost us plenty
Evansville (Ind.) Courier & Press

An internal investigation has confirmed that the Department of Health and Human Services threatened to fire Medicare's chief actuary if he told Congress that the estimated cost of the prescription drug bill was far higher than the White House was letting on.

The probe said no criminal laws were broken, that Medicare's then-chief official Thomas Scully was within management rights in withholding the information and threatening to discipline chief actuary Richard Foster if he released it to Congress.

The White House put the cost of the drug bill at \$395 billion.

Foster put the cost at \$334 billion, maybe even as high as \$600 billion. If those figures had been known in advance of the House vote, the drug bill would not have passed. Even at \$395 billion, Congress had no way of paying for it. And some think tanks believe the real 10-year cost may be something like twice that figure.

And what of Thomas Scully, the official who ordered the estimates suppressed? He's gone to work as a lobbyist for the drug companies that stand to profit from the costly new entitlement.

Tenet blind to the big picture
Los Angeles Times

Farewell speeches by federal department heads are usually rather tame affairs. They thank the president, praise their employees and bow out quietly. Outgoing CIA Director George Tenet took a different approach [this month].

He essentially urged agency employees to mutiny if his successor, or Congress, attempt to reform the agency. "If people want to take us back in the wrong direction," Tenet declared, "then it is your voices that must be raised to say, 'We know better and we will not stand for it.'" That statement seems particularly brazen in the face of a bipartisan Senate Intelligence Committee report released [this month] that supplies damning new details about Tenet's leadership failures.

As report after report, and committee after committee, has already shown, the CIA did not know better. It does not seem to have known anything, which explains why it is repeatedly got snookered by bogus Iraq defec-

tors, including the aptly named "Curveball" peddling nightmares scenarios about Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction.

After Tenet's speech, a CIA spokesman said the director did not intend to suggest that employees should ignore future reform proposals — he was referring to personnel practices. But the text shows that this is misleading. Tenet's remarks were sweeping, including his self-congratulatory, "We have rebuilt every aspect of our business." ...

Tenet's remarks ... underscore that his priority has never been improving the performance of the CIA. It's been protecting the CIA's access and influence by any means necessary. ...

The Senate's intelligence report, some of which remains classified, shows that the agency saw what it wanted to see in Iraq. Tenet cannot dodge culpability for that failure. ...

The Tenet era has mercifully come to an end, but the problems he created have not.

Experts at stifling research
Houston Chronicle

When Houston geneticist George Wein- stock was nominated to a federal advisory board on the human genome project, he felt inspired. ...

But the questions posed during his White House interview left the scientist dumbfounded. What was Weinstock's opinion of President Bush, the geneticist was asked. Where did he stand on the volatile issue of stem cell research? Prompted by cases like this, more than 4,000 distinguished scientists — including 48 Nobel Prize winners — recently signed a petition decrying the Bush administration's egregious politicizing of the nation's scientific research. Under the rubric of the Union of Concerned Scientists, the signatories complained that entire research panels and their findings have been blocked, distorted or manipulated in the service of political goals. ...

The US list includes outright dismissal of findings on the environmental effects of mountaintop removal mining, an advisory panel on endangered game fish that was ordered to excise recommendations that countered administration policy; the 2003 perversion of an Environmental Protection Agency report on climate change, including forced elimination of a statement that "climate change has global consequences for human health and the environment."

Such contempt for scientific expertise is chilling and should end at once.

Sunday Horoscope

The Leo moon says, "Play like children, loudly and without being self-conscious!" The more inappropriately and immature the exchange, the more memorable and story-worthy it will seem. Things could get so out of hand, you may even wonder if you're being secretly filmed on some kind of reality show. Just be careful not to picture any of your feelings.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 18) This year, you're engrossed in your life as a work in progress, and the improvement never ends. The money picture is firming up this month. You see a path to creating more and solving the issues of the past. Romance depends on your ability to relax and have fun. Pursue your pleasures, and make the rest of this summer your best yet.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Your enthusiasm opens doors. Be aggressive in love or when looking for a job. Everyone gets the message when you stand up for yourself. If you can't shake a particular hunch or feeling tonight, pay close attention.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Life is subtly preparing you to play a bigger part. People you barely know have a great effect on you. A certain neighbor always requests and never gives back. Letting yourself be used is as bad as crime as the user perpetrates.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) You're lucky in matters of inheritance or property. Even if you aren't making tons of money, you feel like a success. Use your authority for the good of everyone concerned.

Singles: The subject of marriage comes up. How scary!

CANCER (June 22-July 22) A new sense of communion could open up for you. Demonstrate your willingness to meet a partner halfway.

Lay down the rules to children — structure is desperately needed. You perfectly fit someone's romantic criteria.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) A snail-paced path to victory is a path to victory nevertheless. Give no attention to your limitations — no one notices them but you. Playing

the shrinking violet does no social good. Put your winning personality out in the open.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You're fresh, real and solution-oriented.

Wherever you go and whatever you do, your mood is totally terrific! Stresses that would have gotten to you last week can now be deflected with grace. Loved ones think you're brilliant.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) The flurry of activity around you provides energy and drains it, too. Dance, hula-hoop, crunch your abs — work out the tension. Tonight could bring a bluish-worship blunder, but having a sense of humor makes it all OK.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21) A slight shift in your direction makes a huge difference in what you wind up. Later, you'll shudder to think of where you might have wound up if you hadn't made the change. You are lucky in games tonight.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Continue to feed your mind. Instead of reinventing the wheel, model your success after the success of someone you admire. You can better overcome a financial setback by not panicking; the money will come in.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Just because you agreed to something in the beginning doesn't mean you have to keep agreeing. People change — that's the beauty of it. Tonight, you make the most of a situation.

Romance follows a savvy move.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You'll wish that you alone could make a better world, and in fact, you can. Shine for morality in all of your actions. Tonight, someone asks you a question you'd rather not answer.

Smile and ask, "Why do you want to know?"

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Humor is how you cope today — and you'll put fabulous ideas about improving your life because you're able to see the comic irony. Consequently fill your day with the positive, and soon, it will be natural for you to do so.

Creators Syndicate

English as "trouse" in the 16th century. "Trousers" was altered to "trousers" in the early 17th century, thus predating your tailor by about 100 years.

The Trowser tale may be a myth, but we want you to know about a leg-covering that really was named for its inventor. Bloomers were invented by Amelia Bloomer, a feminist whose "Bloomer costume," introduced in 1850, consisted of a just-over-the-knee-length belted tunic, worn over baggy Turkish-style trousers.

This column was prepared by the editors of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary. Send questions to Merriam-Webster's Wordwatch, P.O. Box 261, 47 Federal St., Springfield, Mass. 01102.

Wishband's excessive neatness makes a big mess of marriage

Dear Abby: I have been married five years to a man I truly love. The problem is, he's a "neat freak," and it's destroying our marriage.

I work full time, commute about 100 miles a day, raise two children with whom I spend a lot of time, cook a homemade dinner almost every night and keep the house clean. It is never enough for him. I walk on eggshells trying to keep the house according to his standards and let my children be children and have fun.

If the kids are going to have friends overnight, I make sure it's on a night when he will be gone. Our children can't do barefoot in the yard, and our shoes must be removed at the door and kept in perfect alignment. If the children eat cookies at the kitchen table, I will complain about the crumbs.

He was gone this weekend. The children and I cleaned the house, picked lemons from our trees and baked him a homemade pie and prepared a nice dinner for him. When he got home all he did was yell because someone had tracked mud on the beach for our annual vacation. My 3-year-old kept saying, "Daddy, we made you a pie and

cooked supper," but he wouldn't stop griping.

Please help. Divorce is not an option because it would destroy the children. How can I get him to realize that his obsessive-compulsive disorder is hurting our family? He thinks it is normal.

— At My Wit's End

Dear Wit's End: Your husband's behavior is "normal" for him. It won't change until you realize that the only thing more destructive to a child than divorce is trying to please a sick parent who is impossible to please.

For their sakes, if not for yours, DEMAND that your husband consult a therapist about his problem. Thankfully, it is one that's treatable.

Please don't wait any longer to assert yourself. Do not back down. When a 3-year-old can recognize that your husband's behavior doesn't make sense, it's time to draw the line.

Dear Abby: Every Wednesday I go to a teen hip-hop class to dance and have fun. On one of those occasions, my friend "Tracy" came to class crying.

My friends and I asked her what was wrong and she said her dad

had hit her. We asked her why, and she said it was because she was on the phone too long. She showed us the bruises on her arms and legs. They looked very bad.

I told Tracy she could come home with me and she said, "No thanks. I'm fine." This week, she didn't make it to dance class. If she shows up with bruises again, should I make her come home with me and call the police? Please, Abby, I don't want Tracy to get hurt anyway.

— Sad and Confused

In San Diego

Dear Sad and Confused: If it happens again, get the dance teacher involved. It is important that an adult document what is happening, and teachers are required by law to report abuse. You are a caring friend, and Tracy is lucky to have you. It is not unusual for an abuse victim to protect her (or his) abuser. The victim may be afraid that speaking out will cause the abuse to escalate. If Tracy does not return to class, a report can be made by calling ChildHelp U.S.A. The phone number is (800) 422-4444.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.abbycahn.com>. Please do not send abusive or sexually harassing letters. Universal Press Syndicate

Wife tired of husband's friend joining them on their vacations

Dear Annie: I am unsure how to address this, but here goes. My husband's best friend, "Judd," is divorced and will be joining us at the beach for our annual vacation.

Judd has been doing this for the past four years. Once, he even stayed in a condo for four days and slept on the sofa. We had no privacy. Since then, Judd has found his own accommodations. I have told my husband I would rather not share our once-a-year vacation with Judd, but he replied, "I can't help it if Judd comes to the beach when we're there." Then he got very angry with me.

While I don't mind my husband sharing time with Judd, I resent him coming along a friend to a vacation I will pay for and want to enjoy with my husband. Am I being a shrew to object? Should I just grin and bear it and maybe take a vacation by myself next year?

— Tired of His Playmate Tagging Along

Dear Tired: Judd must have plenty love. Do you have any single friends you can match him up with? If he had a social life of his own, he would be less of an annoyance to you. The problem, of course, is that he's been intruding on your vacations for four years and is under the impression that you don't mind. We suspect your husband doesn't

know how to extricate himself without hurting Judd's feelings.

The two of you should have a heart-to-heart with Judd and together explain that you'd like some romantic time alone this year. If your husband refuses to do this, you may have a different problem — one that requires professional help.

Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: I have been diagnosed with TMD (temporomandibular disorder), but neither my dentist nor doctor thinks anything can be done for me. I have severe pain in my jaw, and I also get headaches.

It hurts every time I try to eat. I wore a mouth guard at night for two years, but it didn't help, so my dentist scrapped it. I am not getting enough sleep, and I'm desperate for relief.

Both doctors told me to take ibuprofen, but it isn't touching the agonizing pain. Is there any help for me?

— K.B.

Dear K.B.: TMD, or TMI, a disorder of the jaw muscles, is often temporary, and therefore, doctors are reluctant to suggest anything drastic. If the pain doesn't go away, ask your doctor and dentist about physical therapy, jaw exercises, stress-reduction techniques and a stronger pain reliever. Good luck.

Dear Annie: My friend, "Susan," was married a year ago.

In her honor, I attended an engagement party, where guests were asked to bring a bottle of liquor; a couples' shower, where we were asked to contribute to the honeymoon; and the wedding, where Susan made it clear that she wanted cash gifts (I gave them a check).

I found it somewhat tasteless that I had to load what gifts to give, but I tried to be understanding of the new couple as they started out.

However, what I really find offensive is I have yet to receive one thank-you note for any of the gifts I have given.

Susan is now expecting, and I'm invited to the baby shower. I am not so desirous to attend as I'm her another acknowledged gift.

— Offended in Ohio

Dear Offended: You're right, although shower gifts do not require a thank-you note if the gift is opened at the party and the giver thanked verbally at the time. Otherwise, the way to read Susan politely is to phone and say, "Did you ever receive my gift? I want to be sure it wasn't misplaced."

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Mary Sarg, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail us at letters@annie-mitchell.com, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

'Trousers' a man-made myth

Q: I read recently that the word "trousers" comes from a man named Jacob Trowser, an early 18th-century English tailor who invented them.

My husband says that can't be right, that "trousers" goes back way before that. Can you clear the matter up for us?

A: As far as we know, there never was a tailor named Jacob Trowser. If there was, he didn't invent trousers — nor could trousers be named after him. The word's actual origins aren't as colorful as all that.

"Trousers" comes from an old Irish and Scottish Gaelic word, "triubhas," which was adopted in

Maroth, Tigers change their stripes

Detroit matches '03 win total with one-hitter vs. Yankees

BY LARRY LAGE

The Associated Press

DETROIT — Despite a steady downpour, the 49,918 Tigers fans stood and cheered as Mike Maroth finished off his one-hitter.

It's been quite a turnaround for Maroth and Detroit, which matched its win total from last season with an 8-0 victory over the New York Yankees on Friday night.

It was fitting Maroth (6-7) picked up the win — with his first major league shutout — after becoming the face of Detroit's miserable season with 12 losses last year, baseball's first 20-game loser since 1980.

"It was unbelievable having a sold-out crowd, standing on their feet for the ninth inning, getting louder and louder," said Maroth, who tied a career high with seven strikeouts and walked two. "I usually smile, but I'm going to be smiling for a while."

The Tigers (43-46) already have as many wins as they did last season when they lost

an AL-record 119 games, one short of the post-1900 futility mark.

"I couldn't ask for anything more," Maroth said.

Ivan Rodriguez — criticized for signing with the lowly Tigers after helping Florida win the World Series — hit a two-run double in a five-run fifth.

Gary Sheffield's double in the fourth was the lone hit against Maroth, and Sheffield was the only Yankees baserunner to reach second.

The Yankees — one-hit for the first time in just over a year — said Maroth deserved to enjoy the moment.

"You knew things would get better for one because of the way he went out there last year," Alex Rodriguez said. "He showed a lot of character."

New York manager Joe Torre said the 26-year-old probably learned a lot from his struggles.

"Players have to fight through things like that become better," Torre said.

"He's not alone. Steve Carlton lost 19 one year, then won a string of Cy Youngs."

The Tigers have won six of eight, and the Yankees lost for the first time in six games. All-Star Javier Vazquez (10-6) gave up eight runs — seven earned — on eight hits over 4½ innings, his worst outing since giving up seven runs on May 6 at Oakland. It was just his second loss since May 12, a span of 12 starts.

"Javy wasn't very good," Torre said. Unlike last season, Maroth got plenty of run support.

Carlos Guillen's RBI triple — his eighth — and Eric Munson's two-run homer put Detroit ahead 3-0 in the second.

Rodriguez's two-run double in the fifth followed Bobby Higginson's RBI single. Dmitri Young brought home another run with a triple — his second in two games — and Guillen ended the big inning with a single.

"Mike pitched like that all the time last year, we just had no run support for him," Young said.



Detroit Tigers starter Mike Maroth reacts after completing his one-hitter Friday against the New York Yankees in Detroit.

Red Sox win game, lose feud with ump

The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Pedro Martinez didn't let umpire Matt Hollowell's strike zone bother him.

Martinez won his sixth straight decision, Nomar Garciaparra homered and the Boston Red Sox beat the Anaheim Angels 4-2 Friday night.

"I don't remember the last time I threw 50-some balls in a game. But the truth of the matter is that we won the game and the rest of it doesn't really matter," said Martinez, who threw only 63 of his 115 pitches for strikes.

"I felt like I could click 95 easy today, and I wasn't too far from the strike zone — even though the results might show something else."

David Ortiz, who leads the AL with 78 RBIs, also wasn't happy about Hollowell's work behind the plate and was ejected after arguing with Hollowell on a called third strike.

Ortiz had to be restrained by manager Terry Francona and



Boston Red Sox manager Terry Francona gets between David Ortiz and home plate umpire Matt Hollowell after Ortiz was thrown out of the game with the Angels in the sixth inning on Friday in Anaheim, Calif.

coach Brad Mills. He then tossed a couple of bats onto the field that came close to hitting first base umpire Bill Hohn and third base ump Mark Carlson standing near the plate.

"We had a couple of words, and I got on fire when he kicked me out of the game — just because I was asking questions," Ortiz said. "I'm not a kind of guy who's trying to cause trouble, but we're not perfect. I did something wrong, and I apologize to the umpires and the fans. It's over."

Martinez (10-3) allowed two runs on five hits and four walks in six innings, while striking out eight. The three-time Cy Young winner improved his career record against Anaheim to 9-1 while ending the Angels' four-game winning streak.

Keith Foulke got three outs for his 14th save in 18 opportunities and his first since June 13.

Kelvin Escobar (5-6) allowing three runs and eight hits in six innings.

June 8.

Zito didn't allow a runner past first base after the second inning. Four relievers finished up, with Octavio Dotel picking up his fourth save in six chances after Chad Bradford allowed consecutive singles in the ninth.

Mark Buehrle (9-3) yielded four runs on nine hits and two walks in just his second loss in 16 starts.

Martinez leads charge as Indians trounce M's

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Victor Martinez was struggling over the last couple of weeks, so he asked his batting coach Eddie Murray for some advice.

"He told me one thing that I really appreciated," Martinez said. "He told me, 'Relax. Don't try to kill the ball.'"

Martinez then had a game that would impress even a Hall of Famer with 504 career home runs: He hit three of the Cleveland Indians' club record-tying eighth homers and drove in a career-high seven runs in an 18-0 rout of the Seattle Mariners on Friday night.

Matt Lawton, Martinez and Casey Blake connected for consecutive homers in a six-run third inning for the Indians. In the ninth, Martinez, Travis Hafner and Ben Broussard all homered off Julio Mateo. And Jody Gerut connected off Mike Myers for Cleveland's eighth homer, which tied the club record set at Milwaukee April 25, 1997.

Martinez is having a breakout season after hitting .289 with one homer and 16 RBIs in 49 games for the Indians last season. He made his first All-Star team and leads all catchers with 70 RBIs.

The eight homers were the most given up by the Mariners, who have lost 10 of 11. The eight homers also were a record at Safeco Field.

The 18 runs and 21 hits by the Indians were season highs.

Cliff Lee (10-1) won his fifth straight decision. The 25-year-old left-hander who came to the Indians in a trade in June 2002 that sent Bartolo Colon to Montreal, pitched six innings and gave up three runs on four hits and two walks, with six strikeouts.

His only loss in 19 starts this season came June 3 in Anaheim.

AL Roundup

Rookie Travis Blackley (1-2) couldn't get a batter out a 7-0 lead, when the Indians took a 7-0 lead.

Royals 12, Twins 3: Dee Brown hit a grand slam off Brad Radke (5-6) in a six-run third and an RBI single in a four-run fourth for a career-high five RBIs. Desi Relaford added a two-run homer for the Royals at Kauffman Stadium.

Mike Sweeney singled in his first four at-bats, giving him hits in six straight at-bats. David Dedusch hit his first major league homer in the first for Kansas City.

Darrell May (7-9), who started 2-8, allowed three runs and seven hits in seven innings.

Devil Rays 2, Orioles 0: John Halama (5-3) allowed three hits over eight innings as Tampa Bay stopped a five-game losing streak with a victory at home.

Danys Baez completed the three-hitter for his 18th save.

Rocco Baldelli hit an RBI double with two outs in the third inning and scored on Aubrey Huff's single off Erik Bedard (3-4), who allowed seven hits in 6½ innings.

Rangers 11, Blue Jays 2: Ryan Drese (5-5) gave up two runs — one earned and nine hits in seven-plus innings. He was five wins at home, where he has a 1.91 ERA.

All-Star Game MVP Alfonso Soriano had a two-run homer and a pair of RBIs, singles, and Lance Nix went 4-for-4 with a two-run homer.

Mark Teixeira homered and drew a bases-loaded walk.

Roy Halladay (7-7), the AL Cy Young Award winner, gave up six runs and seven hits in four innings.

Zito sharp as A's knock off White Sox

The Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Barry Zito pitched seven innings for his first win in seven starts, and Jermaine Dye hit a three-run homer in the Oakland Athletics' 5-1 victory over the Chicago White Sox on Friday night.

Dye had three hits and Marco Scutaro had an RBI double for the A's, who beat Chicago at the

Coliseum for the 15th time in 16 games. Oakland has won 22 of its last 25 at home overall.

Zito (5-7) allowed four hits while working quickly and confidently, showing no ill effects from his hard-luck losses and inconsistency since the season. The A's scored exactly one run in his previous two starts, and the 2002 AL Cy Young award winner was 0-4 since a victory over Cincinnati on

Short hits do the trick as Dodgers pad streak

BY MEL REISNER
The Associated Press

PHOENIX — Facing a sinker-ball pitcher, the Los Angeles Dodgers put aside power for placement.

Alex Cora drove in two runs with squeeze bunts and the Dodgers beat the Arizona Diamondbacks 6-2 on Friday night for their 11th victory in 12 games.

Los Angeles has relied heavily on home runs, but "with this guy, you don't try to do too much," Cesar Izuris said. "You just try to make contact, and we'll did it."

Kazuhisa Ishii (11-1) improved to 7-1 against Arizona, including 4-0 this year, allowing two runs and four hits in six innings.

Shawn Green said, "He just finds ways to win. If it's a low-scoring game, a lot of times he'll give up one less run than the other team. And, if we get some runs for him, it's been automatic."

Green went 3-for-4 with an RBI double, Robin Ventura had a run-scoring single and Milton Bradley scored three runs after two walks and a double.

Arizona, which wasted a 2-0 lead, has lost five in a row, eight of nine and 21 of 25. Brandon Webb (3-10) gave up five runs, seven hits and three walks in seven innings.

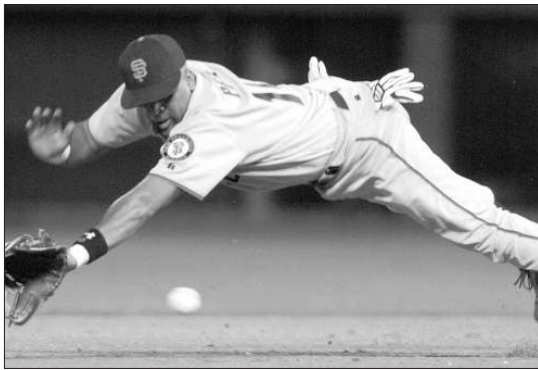
"It's getting to the point, coming in and working hard every day, we've been doing it for the last 10 games and we're not getting the result that we would like," said Arizona manager Al Pedrique, 2-10 since taking over from the fired Bob Brenly.

Chad Tracy's RBI single and Juan Brito's sacrifice fly put Arizona ahead in the second.

Izuris hit an RBI groundout in the third and the Dodgers took a 3-2 lead in the fourth on Jayson Werth's sacrifice fly and Cora's first bunt.

Cora bunted in Milton Bradley in the sixth inning.

"They put the ball in play, and things happened," Webb said. "Teams, when they're not scoring many runs and don't get a lot of hits in the air or anything, that's a way to put runners on base and put some pressure on the defense."



San Francisco shortstop Neifi Perez dives to snare an errant throw from catcher Yorvit Torrealba on a stolen base attempt by the Colorado Rockies' Aaron Miles in the seventh inning on Friday night. Colorado won 7-1.

Houston has a problem

Astros, once the favorites to win NL Central title, tumble below .500 in manager Garner's first game

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Phil Garner over-looked another uninspired performance by the Houston Astros in his first game as their manager.

"I'm encouraged," Garner said. "I saw some good things out there tonight."

Jake Peavy pitched five innings, Mark Loretta had a three-run double and San Diego beat Houston 5-1 on Friday night, the Astros' first game since Jimmy Williams was fired during the All-Star break.

"We're disappointed," first baseman Jeff Bagwell said. "But if anyone thought we were going to win 74 games in a row, that's not going to happen."

Garner, who managed Milwaukee and Detroit to a combined 708-802 record during parts of 11 seasons, replaced Williams on Wednesday, the day after Houston hosted the All-Star Game.

The Astros are a talent-rich team that went from preseason favorite to win the NL Central after signing free-agent pitchers Andy Pettitte and Roger Clemens to a scuffling squad that lost for the seventh time in nine games. Houston dropped to 44-45, under .500 for the first time since it was 1-2 on April 7.

The Astros are 12 games behind the Central-leading St. Louis Cardinals, who beat Cincinnati 7-0 on Friday.

Pettitte (5-3), who left the New York Yankees to pitch for his hometown Astros, hasn't won in Houston since May 15. He allowed four runs and seven hits over five innings.

"I'm just not getting it done," Pettitte said. "I'm very disappointed in the way I pitched out there tonight. It's a bad time to be doing that right now. It puts too much pressure on the team."

NL Roundup

Phillies 5, Mets 1: Jim Thome hit his major league-leading 29th home run and Kevin Millwood pitched three-hit ball for seven innings as visiting Philadelphia regained first place alone in the tight NL East.

Bobby Abreu also homered and drove in two runs for the Phillies, who moved out of a first-place tie when Atlanta lost to Montreal.

Millwood (7-5) didn't give up a hit until the fifth and outpitched Jae Seo (4-6), who allowed two runs and six hits.

Billy Wagner got five outs for his 14th save in 16 chances.



Colorado's Todd Greene hit two home runs Friday night, including this seventh-inning solo shot off Giants reliever Felix Rodriguez.

Expos 5, Braves 1: Jose Vidro homered, Nick Johnson added an RBI double in the eighth and visiting Montreal's bullpen pitched 4 1/3 shutout innings.

Joe Horgan (2-0) escaped a bases-loaded jam in the sixth after he relieved Claudio Vargas. Paul Byrd (2-2) allowed three runs and five hits in six innings.

Pirates 6, Marlins 2: Kris Benson (7-7) limited visiting Florida to two runs in 8 1/3 innings, helping the Pirates win their eighth in a row at home. Jose Mesa got two outs for his 23rd save.

Florida's A.J. Burnett (1-4) allowed five runs and nine hits in five innings.

Cardinals 7, Reds 5: Reggie Sanders hit a two-run single and pinch-hitter Marlon Anderson a three-run homer in the eighth off Reds closer Danny Graves (1-4). It was Graves' eighth blown save in 41 opportunities.

Kiko Calero (1-0) pitched a perfect seventh for visiting St. Louis. Jason Irsinghausen worked the ninth for his 22nd save.

Brewers 3, Cubs 2: Pinch-hitter Brooks Kieschnick singled in the go-ahead run in the seventh for visiting Milwaukee.

Victor Santos (9-3) allowed four hits and two runs in six innings to win for the seventh time in his last eight decisions. Dan Kolb pitched a perfect ninth for his 27th save.

Rockies 7, Giants 1: Todd Greene hit two long homers and drove in four runs and Shawn Estes scattered seven hits over eight innings after a nearly 2 1/2-hour rain delay.

Greene had his third career multihomer game, Matt Holliday hit his 10th homer and Estes (9-4) won for the first time since June 23, giving the Rockies their ninth victory in 12 games.

Messages of Support

★ I'M PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN AND I'LL FIGHT TO KEEP US FREE. AS I FIGHT TO KEEP OUR COUNTRY FREE. ALL I SEE AND HEAR IS YOU DISHONOR ME. WHY DON'T YOU STOP YOUR PROTESTS AND SHOW YOUR RESPECT TO ME. AS I FIGHT TO KEEP OUR COUNTRY FREE OF A MAN WHO IS OUT TO DESTROY US. YOU DISHONOR ME.

SO STAND UP AND SHOW SOME RESPECT TO ME. AS I RISK MY LIFE SO WE STAY FREE. I WILL FIGHT THE MAN WHO TRY'S TO TAKE THIS AWAY FROM ME. SO STAND UP AND SHOW YOUR RESPECT TO ME. AS I RISK MY LIFE SO WE CAN BE FREE OF MAN WHO HAS SHOWN US HOW EVIL HE CAN BE.

SO STOP YOUR PROTESTS AND STAND UP FOR ME. I WILL FIGHT UNTIL I KNOW THIS MAN WILL NEVER HURT MY FAMILY OR ME. WHY CAN'T YOU PEOPLE SEE HOW MANY FAMILIES WERE DEVESTED BY THE MAN I'M FIGHTING TO DESTROY. BEFORE HE DESTROYS ME. HOW CAN YOU SAY THIS ISN'T SOMETHING THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE. I HAVE FAMILY WHO I HAD TO LEAVE BECAUSE I KNOW WHAT I'M FIGHTING FOR IS THE WAY THINGS HAVE TO BE. SO STAND UP AND SHOW YOUR RESPECT TO ME. AS I FIGHT SO WE CAN BE FREE OF A MAN WHO DESTROY US IF IT WASN'T FOR OUR MILITARY. SO STOP YOUR PROTEST AND STAND NEXT TO ME SO UNITED & FREE WE WILL STAY. THIS IS THE WAY IT SHOULD BE. BECAUSE I'M PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN FROM THE GREAT USA!!!!

★ I DO HOPE YOU GET THIS, THANK YOU, FOR EVERYTHING YOU MEN AND WOMEN ARE DOING FOR US BACK HERE IN THE STATES. YOU IN MY PRAYERS EVERY NIGHT, AND OUR CHURCH, CALVARY BAPTIST IS ALSO PRAYING FOR EACH ONE. HANG IN THERE, AND GOD BE WITH EACH ONE OF YOU FROM THE E. ALTON, IL AREA, BETTY.

★ You are in our thoughts and you have our support. I work for a company where most of the workers are 1st generation Americans mostly immigrants from Asia and Central America. I was reminded of what America means to see their complete concern and support for our troops. Gods speed and a safe return home Jeff in Seattle

★ May god bless you all, in everything you do. We are praying for you all. Mrs. W Van Egmond

Jones pulls out of 200 meters

Sprinter withdraws after poor showing in quarterfinals

The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Defending Olympic champion Marion Jones pulled out of the 200 meters in the U.S. track and field trials Saturday, but did not immediately say why.

Her lawyer, Rich Nichols, said Jones would have a news conference later in the day.

Jones finished last in her five-woman heat in the quarterfinals of the 200 on Friday. It wasn't clear whether she was hurt or simply coasting because she knew she could advance to the semifinals without much effort.

Jones looked ordinary Friday, finishing in 22.93 seconds. She slowed to nearly a trot on the final straightaway but advanced to the semifinals Saturday because only one of the 19 women entered in the quarterfinals was eliminated.

The track gave her problems earlier in the trials. Jones failed to qualify for Athens in her signature event, the 100, finishing fifth in the final last weekend. Her time in the 200 Friday was 10th best, well behind Torri Edwards' leading 22.60.

It was just the second 200 Jones has run all year, her first back since having a baby in 2003. She made her outdoor debut in the event in the Mount SAC Relays in April, finishing fourth in 23.02.

In other events Friday, Shawn Crawford, Justin Gatlin and Tyson Gay ran three of the four fastest times in the world this year in the men's 200 heats; reigning world champion Tom Pappas led the decathlon after the first day; Laura Greathurst won the 400 m; and Desha Kuster took the 10,000 in 31:09.65 — breaking the trials and U.S. championships records — but will run the marathon in Athens.

Crawford ran a world-best 19.88, while Gatlin ran 20.06 and Gay, the NCAA champion from Arkansas, had a personal-best 20.07.

"I wanted to show the competitors I mean business," Gatlin said.

Gatlin and Crawford already are on the Olympic team in the 100, along with defending Olympic champion Maurice Greene. Greene was entered in the 200 as well, but — as expected — did not show up for his heat.

Edwards, who made the Olympic team in the 100, might not be able to show up in Athens. She has an arbitration hearing in a drug case slated for Monday after acknowledging this week that she had a positive test for a banned stimulant this year. Edwards claims she took the drug inadvertently and is trying to avoid a two-year ban that would knock her out of the Olympics.

There were six no-shows in the

women's 200. Even with the depleted field, the race looked difficult for Jones.

A night after jumping 23 feet, 4 inches — the second-best long jump in the world this year and her best since 1998 — Jones flushed her trademark smile when she was announced at the start of the 200.

Jones, wearing an all-white body suit, got off to a poor start but ran the curve well and was among the leaders coming into the final straightaway. Then she slowed significantly in the last 80 meters and finished far behind heat winner Miller.

The former shining star of track and field is being investigated by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency. She has not been charged and repeatedly has denied ever using performance-enhancing drugs. Her boyfriend, Tim Montgomery, has been charged with steroid use and faces a lifetime ban if found guilty by an international arbitration panel.

There has been more drug news at the Olympic trials this week.

In the latest development, the Chicago Tribune and The Washington Post reported Friday on their Web sites that sprinter Mickey Grimes had a positive result for a steroid in an out-of-competition test this year. Grimes won his qualifying heat in the 200 Friday, 20.39, then left the track without talking to reporters.



Marion Jones withdrew from the 200 meters on Saturday, a day after she finished fifth in her heat with a time of 22.93 seconds.

record 67 players file for arbitration

The Associated Press

TORONTO — Joe Thornton of the Boston Bruins, Zdeno Chara of the Ottawa Senators and Scott Niedermayer of the New Jersey Devils are among the record 67 NHL players who have filed for salary arbitration.

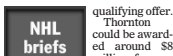
Other restricted free agents who filed by Thursday's midnight deadline include Brendan Morrison of the New York Rangers, Vancouver Canucks, Bryan McCabe and Tomas Kaberle of the Toronto Maple Leafs, Chris Phillips of the Senators, Mikko Kiprusoff of the Calgary Flames, Eric Brewer of the Edmonton Oilers, Richard Zednik of the Montreal Canadiens and Alex Tanguay of the Chicago Avalanche.

Among the high-profile restricted free agents who opted not to file for arbitration are Calgary's Jarome Iginla and Chris Pronger of the Los Angeles Kings.

"We made the decision not to arbitrate, which is the same decision we made two years ago and I found that quite productive the last time," said Iginla's agent Don Meehan.

Meehan will continue to focus on getting a long-term deal done with Flames GM Darryl Sutter.

Thornton is stalled in contract talks with the Bruins, having rejected their one-year, \$5.5-million



qualifying offer. Thornton could be awarded around \$8 million for one year, given that he's had more points in the last three seasons than Todd Bertuzzi — whose new deal averages out to \$7.9 million a year — as well as Iginla, who made \$7.5 million last year.

The Bruins captain has averaged 80.5 points a season over the last three years, including a career-high 101 in 2002-03.

Arbitration hearings are scheduled for Aug. 1-15 in Toronto, although many of the 67 players who filed will likely reach agreement with their teams before any hearing.

Heatley indicted for car crash that killed teammate

ATLANTA — Atlanta Thrashers defenseman Heatley was indicted Friday on vehicular homicide and five other charges in the 2003 wreck that claimed the life of a teammate.

Police estimated that Heatley was driving his black Ferrari convertible between 60 and 90 mph on a curved road in a residential area when it ran into a brick pillar and iron fence on Sept. 29, 2003.

Dan Snyder, 25, died after sev-



Boston Bruins captain Joe Thornton, who filed for salary arbitration Thursday, rejected a one-year, \$5.5 million offer from the team.

eral days in a coma, and Heatley broke his jaw and tore two ligaments in his knee. The Canadian citizen returned to play with the team in January.

Authorities said Heatley had consumed alcohol before he was intoxicated at the time of the wreck.

Avalanche sign Aebischer to one-year deal

DENVER — The Colorado Avalanche rewarded David Aebischer for a steady first season in place of Patrick Roy, signing him to a one-year contract Friday.

Aebischer had scored the second Avalanche goal to win 30 games (32) and posted a 2.09 goals-against average.

Nuggets sign Camby

The Associated Press

DENVER — The Denver Nuggets signed center Marcus Camby to a multiyear deal on Friday, a day after finalizing a trade for All-Star power forward Kenyon Martin.

Camby was Denver's top offseason priority after he opted out of his contract at the end of last season. He agreed to terms two weeks ago, but the details weren't worked out until the Nuggets completed the sign-and-trade deal for Martin with New Jersey.

Terms of Camby's deal were not released.

"Marcus has been a big part of our success here," Nuggets General Manager Kiki Vandeweghe said. "We are extremely excited he is going to be a big part of our future."

Plagued by injuries for most of his eight-year career, Camby had his best season last year.

Playing in a career-high 72 games, Camby averaged 8.6 points, 10.1 rebounds and was fifth in the league with 2.6 blocked shots to help the Nuggets reach the playoffs for the first time in nine years.

Warriors confirm Fisher deal

OAKLAND, Calif. — Point guard Derek Fisher finalized a six-year, \$37 million contract with the Golden State Warriors on Friday, leaving the Los Angeles Lakers for a team that hasn't made the playoffs in 10 years.



The Associated Press and ESPN first reported the deal Thursday.

The Warriors used their mid-level salary-cap exemption on Fisher despite already having point guards Nick Van Exel and Speedy Claxton under contract.

Fisher averaged 7.4 points per game in his eight seasons with the Lakers. He won three championships with Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant, but was relegated to the bench last season when the Lakers signed Gary Payton.

Fisher, 29, wanted more playing time next season, and it probably wasn't available in Los Angeles. His day after Payton exercised his \$5.4 million option for next season on June 22. Fisher opted out of the final two years of his deal with the Lakers.

Hornets sign Peterson to offer sheet

NEW ORLEANS — Restricted free agent forward Morris Peterson signed an offer sheet with the New Orleans Hornets on Friday, giving the Toronto Raptors 15 days to match it.

The Hornets did not release the amount of the offer, citing club policy. Peterson's agent, Rob Pelinka, said the deal was worth \$15 million over three years.

Swords, Jacobs win USAREUR 10-Miler

By RUSTY BRYAN
Stars and Stripes

GRAFENWÖHR, Germany — Shamon Swords of Landstuhl and Jessica Jacobs of Grafenwöhr repeated Saturday as USAREUR 10-Miler champions. It will probably be the last time they wear the crown.

Swords won the event for the third straight year in 56 minutes, 8.71 seconds, and Jacobs took her second straight in 62:47.42. Both will leave the command before the 2005 edition of the annual qualifier for October's Army 10-Miler in Washington, D.C.

"It's a good way to go out," said Jacobs, who said she's looking forward to anchoring the USAREUR women's team in D.C.

"It's the best," she said of the D.C. event, which expands from 18,000 to 20,000 runners this year. "There are so many people to push you along, and the course is flat and fast."

The key to doing well in D.C., Jacobs said, is getting ahead of the pack.

"You have to make sure to get to the top," said Jacobs, who won her seniors category for runners 26-32 years of age by just under 10 minutes and broke her record of 63:19 on a course she described as "deceptive."

"There are a lot of gradual hills," she said, "and on a day like today (little breeze and bright sun) the weather got hot really fast."

For the second straight year, Jacobs defeated Landstuhl's Jessica Chen for the women's overall title. Chen, the 2002 overall champion, won this year's masters title for runners over 33 years in 66:53.53.

Swords, running in the seniors category for runners 30-39, was above his 55-minute winning time of last year, and faces an uncertain status as a USAREUR runner for the October event. He is changing stations this summer.

If Swords can't run for USAREUR, the Army-Europe men's team will turn to open champion Jason Galus to anchor its effort. Galus finished in 57:08.78 Saturday and will be joined on the team by four other sub-60-minute men: seniors Robert Zach of Heidelberg (57:33.23) and David Montana of Döbeln (57:43.78), open runner-up Benjamin Martinielli of Heidelberg (58:53.22) and master's champion Michael Buley of Vicenza, who topped the 40-and-over runners by more than 10 minutes with a time of 58:19.92.

Buley is looking forward to heading off USAREUR delegation in D.C. for the second straight year. Like Jacobs, he's not worried about having to run down the field of 20,000 in D.C.

"The bigger field just adds to it," he said. "We have decent times, so we'll start near the front. If we didn't, we'd have to be like Crocodile Dundee running over people's backs."



Michael Buley



Jessica Jacobs

Buley, who said he's been running seriously but unofficially since he was 12, said the team aspect of the USAREUR and Army 10-Milers appeals to him. Saturday, he anchored Vicenza to the team championship.

"I missed out on teams in high school and college," he said, "so now it's become really important to do them. Running's an individual sport, but being part of a team provides camaraderie. It's nice to represent Vicenza and be part of a great running community."

E-mail Rusty Bryan at: bryan@mail.ustripes.osd.mil
Results on Page 22

Nigerian women's team routs military all-stars

Basketball squad using exhibitions for Olympic tuneup

By RUSTY BRYAN
Stars and Stripes

HEIDELBERG, Germany — The European women's U.S. all-stars weren't much of a match for the Nigerian women's Olympic basketball team in an 83-26 loss Friday night.

"It's an eye-opener to see what it's like on the next level," said U.S. forward Tiffany Collins of Heidelberg, who scored three points. "All of them played college ball. They have two players who were with the WNBA, and they've been playing together for a long time."

It showed early. The score was 23-9 after 10 minutes and 39-17 at halftime, with all the U.S. points coming on outside shots or free throws.

It got worse after that. The Nigerians, champions of Africa and the only women's team from the continent to qualify for next month's Athens Games, decided to work on their full-court press after halftime, forcing turnovers and steals during a 32-2 third-quarter run.

This isn't the kind of game we need to get us ready for the Olympics," Nigeria's Macabene Amachree said, "but we have what we have. After this we're going to be ready for the Olympics."

Amachree, who has played professionally in Turkey and with the WNBA's Seattle Storm, led all scorers with 20 points. Mfon Udoaka added 16 and Toro Umoh

and Aisha Mohammed had 9 points each for Nigeria.

Heidelberg's Katina Miles scored six points to lead the U.S. team, which had practiced together only two times and had no inside presence.

"They're very good athletes, very tall," Collins said. "We had to shoot outside because it wouldn't do any good to take it into the trees."

Even though they were thoroughly outclassed, the Americans refused to mail it in.

"We kept battling," said Joe Souza, who has coached the Heidelberg Lady Generals to three straight U.S. Forces Europe titles.

"They're quick, long and athletic," he said. "Women's basketball is all about guard play, and they completely outplayed us at the guard position. If you can't get the ball into the frontcourt, you can't score."

Despite the rout, Mannheim's Cathy Holmes said she enjoyed the evening.

"It isn't that often that you get to play an Olympic team," she said. "This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

Technically, it was a thrice-in-a-lifetime opportunity. The U.S. stars, augmented by German players, were scheduled to play the Nigerians on Saturday evening and again at 1:30 p.m. Sunday at Patton Barracks. Admission is free.

E-mail Rusty Bryan at: bryan@mail.ustripes.osd.mil

White Sox DH Thomas out 8 weeks with broken foot

The Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Chicago White Sox designated hitter Frank Thomas is expected to miss eight weeks with a broken bone in his left foot.

Thomas is hitting .271 with 18 homers and 49 RBIs this season.

The two-time AL MVP led the league with 64 walks and a .434 on-base percentage entering the weekend.

Thomas was placed on the disabled list last Saturday with inflammation in his ankle, but an MRI taken in Las Vegas this week revealed a stress fracture in his foot, the team said Friday.

"We're going to miss one of the best hitters in the game the last few years, but we have to deal with it," Chicago manager Ozzie Guillen said.

Sports briefs

No surgery will be necessary, but Dr. Lowell Well, Chicago's team podiatrist, recommended immobilizing Thomas' foot. Thomas will undergo additional tests in four weeks, but probably won't return before the final weeks of the regular season.

Yankees put Mussina on DL
DETROIT — The New York Yankees have one more reason to want Randy Johnson.

Mike Mussina went on the disabled list Friday with a sore right elbow, two days before he was scheduled to return to the rotation.

Mussina, who has fluid in his elbow, will be eligible to come off the DL on July 22. Alex Graman

was recalled from Triple-A Columbus to take his roster spot.

With Mussina's setback and Kevin Brown coming off a rough rehab outing at Double-A Trenton on Thursday, the Yankees may be more motivated to make a move for pitching help by the July 31 trade deadline.

Brown has been out since June 10 with a strained back and intestinal parasite.

The Yankees officially told Diamondbacks general manager Joe Garagiola Jr. on Wednesday that they'd like to have Johnson. Boston, Anaheim and the Chicago White Sox are among other clubs expected to make a pitch for the five-time Cy Young winner.

Rice wins fourth IRL pole
GLADEVILLE, Tenn. — Buddy Rice won his second

straight pole Friday and fourth this year with a lap of 201.231 mph at Nashville Superspeedway, edging teammate Vitor Meira by a slightly larger margin than he needed to beat his teammate at Kansas on July 4 in the second-closest IRL finish.

That victory by 0.0051 seconds measured about seven inches.

Rice will be trying for his third victory of the season in Saturday night's Firestone Indy 200.

Delgado staying in Toronto

ARLINGTON, Texas — Carlos Delgado said Friday that he won't waive his no-trade clause, preferring instead to stay in Toronto to finish the final year of his \$64 million contract.

General Manager J.P. Ricciardi asked Delgado last week if he'd be willing to be traded. The slug-

ger gave his answer before the Blue Jays played at Texas to open the second half of the season.

"When I walked out of that office (Saturday), I said I was going to think about it, go home to talk to my family and my agent. That's what I did," Delgado said. "This is where I wanted to be. So this is the decision that I made."

Delgado is eligible for free agency this fall and is being paid \$18.5 million this season to end a four-year deal.

Just before taking his first cuts during pregame batting practice on Friday, Delgado spoke briefly with Ricciardi on the field.

"He's earned the right to have his contract," Ricciardi said. "We honor it and he's declined to waive his no-trade clause. That closes the book, unless he comes to me."

Stars and Stripes

Messages of Support

★ Thanks for all that y'all do! We talk about you every night at work and are hoping and praying that you keep safe over there. I work with a group of girls at a law firm in Seattle and we are always checking updates of the War. Keep your spirits high and your bodies safe and come home quickly! We are fully supporting you and appreciate all that you are

You! Love, Brandy in Seattle!

★ To everyone who is serving.... my thoughts and prayers go out to each and everyone of you. We appreciate your hard work and

dedication you have given our country.... YOU are truly the reason why..... WE HAVE FREEDOMS.... of living within a Great country.... the United States. Keep up with the great work. Amy Mayo

★ MAN YOU'RE DOING US PROUD. HANG IN THERE AND GOOD LUCK. WE'RE ALL THINKING OF YOU. Melanie Larder

British Open

Saturday
At Royal Troon Golf Club
Troon, Scotland
Purse: \$7.44 million
Yardage: 7,176 Par: 71
Tiebreaker
(a-mateur)

Todd Hamilton, U.S.	71-67-67-205-8
Ernie Els, South Africa	69-69-68-206-7
Phil Mickelson, U.S.	73-68-68-207-6
Retief Goosen, So. Africa	69-70-68-207-6
Thomas Levet, France	66-70-71-207-6
David Howell, England	69-70-68-207-6
Tiger Woods, U.S.	70-71-68-209-4
Scott Verplank, U.S.	69-70-70-209-4
Craig Stadler, Scotland	69-68-72-210-3
Mike Weir, Canada	71-68-71-210-3
Skip Kendall, United States	66-70-74-210-3
Lee Westwood, England	72-71-68-211-2
Nick Price, Zimbabwe	71-71-69-211-2
L. Choi, South Korea	71-69-74-211-2
Shaun Micheel, U.S.	70-72-72-211-2
Davey Neale, United States	72-69-72-211-2
Kim Fothergill, Australia	73-67-72-212-1
Kenny Perry, United States	69-70-73-212-1
Michael Campbell, N. Zealand	67-71-74-212-1
Mark O'Meara, U.S.	71-74-68-213
Brad Casey, England	66-77-70-213
Justin Leonard, U.S.	70-72-71-213
Timothy Simpson, U.S.	72-72-69-214
Mark Calcavecchia, U.S.	72-73-68-214
Tetsuji Hiratsuka, Japan	70-70-74-214
Keiichiro Fukubori, Japan	72-71-70-214
Ben Sasse, United States	72-71-71-214
Woo Joon Kim, South Korea	72-71-71-214
Steve Stricker, U.S.	72-71-71-214
Stewart Cink, U.S.	72-71-71-214
Takashi Kanomura, Japan	74-71-71-214
Andrew Olden, Scotland	70-73-71-214
Hunter Mahan, U.S.	74-69-71-214
Brad Faxon, United States	71-72-71-214
Joakim Haeggman, Sweden	69-73-72-214
Paul Broadhurst, England	70-73-71-214
Stuart Appleby, Australia	71-70-73-214
Perry Davis, England	72-71-71-214
Paul Bradley, No. Ireland	69-73-72-214
Rodney Panchanah, Australia	72-68-74-214
Vijay Singh, Sri Lanka	68-70-76-214
Jaiyoti Ramdhan, India	73-72-70-215
Steve Flesch, United States	75-70-70-215
Tijart van der Wal, So. Africa	70-73-72-215
Kenneth Ferrie, England	68-74-73-215
Brad Faxon, United States	74-69-73-215
Adam Scott, Australia	73-68-74-215
Sean Wilentz, England	72-72-71-215
Miguel Angel Jimenez, Spain	74-71-71-216
Bory Stankovic, U.S.	71-73-72-216
David Tom, United States	71-71-74-216
Ignacio Garrido, Spain	72-74-73-217
Charles Howell, U.S.	75-70-72-217
Paul Broadhurst, England	71-74-72-217
Bob Wadsworth, U.S.	75-70-72-217
Mathias Gronberg, Sweden	70-73-73-217
Stephane Jacquelin, France	72-72-73-217
Sugito, Maruyama, Japan	71-72-73-217
Steve Lowery, U.S.	72-73-73-217
Paul Broadhurst, England	71-74-72-217
Jerry Kelly, United States	70-73-73-218
Paul Broadhurst, England	71-74-72-218
Carl Peterson, Sweden	68-77-74-219
James Kingston, So. Africa	73-72-74-219
Mark Foster, England	71-72-76-219
Rich Beem, United States	70-73-76-219
Paul Broadhurst, England	71-74-72-219
Christin Erlandsson, Sweden	73-70-77-220
Mark Foster, England	71-72-76-220
Martin Dierckx, U.S.	71-71-78-220
Alastair Gordon, Sweden	68-74-76-220
Paul Broadhurst, England	73-72-76-221
Mark Foster, England	71-74-76-221
Sandy Lyle, Scotland	70-73-76-224

Opening: A final-round free-for-all set at Troon

OPENING, FROM BACK PAGE

"It's cool how we see a lot of top players, and also see quality players you may not have thought on Thursday would be here," Mickelson said. "It's going to make for some very interesting fun, exciting television."

Also at 207 was Thomas Levet, who got to 9-under until two gaffes cost him three shots — a three-putt from 12 feet for double bogey on No. 12, and two shots to get out of a pot bunker on the 17th for a bogey.

Barry Lane of England also had a share of the lead at one point, but the 44-year-old who cost Europe the Ryder Cup in 1993 took double bogey on the 17th and bogeyed the 18th for a 71 to finish at 208.

Woods had been in Sunday contention in a major since the British Open last year, and he gave himself a chance with four birdies on his first seven holes for a 68. Still, the world's No. 1 player has made only one birdie on the back nine all week, and that left him farther back than he would have liked.

"I've got a fighting chance," said Woods, who will play with Scott Verplank (70).

Former Masters champion Mike Weir birdied two of the last three holes for a 71 and was at 210 with Montgomery (72) and Skip Kendall, the 36-hole leader who failed to make a birdie in his round of 75.

"This is a hell of a lead battle," Els said. "This is quality players, players that have proven themselves throughout the years. And you've got some new guys that really want to break through. I think it's set for quite a finish."

It all starts with Hamilton, who spent a dozen years in places like Singapore and Pakistan and Kuala Lumpur, trying to keep alive his hopes of playing in the big leagues. He finally got his PGA Tour card in December, and if anyone doubts his mettle, consider what he did in March — birdies on the last two holes to beat Davis Love III in the Honda Classic.

"I'm not one to slip away," Hamilton said. He sure didn't in an exciting third round, when sunshine gave way to clouds, strong wind, 15 minutes of cold rain and then only a mild breeze off the Firth of Clyde that ushered in the sunshine — all this in a three-hour stretch.

Hamilton made simple birdies on the par 5s, holed a 20-foot birdie from the fringe on the Postage Stamp eighth hole and took the lead with a 6-iron that stopped rolling 3 feet from the flag on the par-3 14th. What saved him were six up-and-downs for par, a glimpse of his gut.

Mickelson needed a little luck. Flawless the past two rounds, his 3-wood was sailing to the right and he knew he was in trouble. But the ball hit the gallery and settled on a tiny patch of dirt so close to being out of bounds that he was standing on the road.

"It should have gone out of bounds," he said. "It was clearly a tremendous break."

On the final hole, his drive was headed for the grandstand when it hit the metal railing that holds back the gallery, landing in a decent lie in the yellow grass.

Mickelson has never finished in the top 10 in a British Open.

Then again, he had never won a major until this year.



Ernie Els and the rest of the field Saturday braved squalls that blew in off the sea.

"This year has been different," Mickelson said.

For Els, this is a familiar position for him in the majors. He was in the second-to-last group in the Masters and thought he had a green jacket until Mickelson made a birdie putt on the final hole.

He was in the final group at Shinnecock, two shots behind Goosen, until he shot 80 in the final round.

Here he is again, one shot behind a guy with neither his skill nor experience.

Hamilton is the leader, but he's also the underdog.

"On a course like this, the best names are going to come to the top," Goosen said. "And that's what is happening."

Save a warm, fuzzy spot for Montgomery.

He grew up at Troon and his support has never been louder, in part because he is going through a divorce. He saved par from a pot bunker on the 15th with a shot struck with such force he tumbled out backward. Monty missed a short par putt on the last hole, but was still only five shots behind.

He even looks like he's enjoying himself, but don't be fooled.

"This is not fun," he said. "This is a job, and a horrible one, but it might well be an enjoyable one when one looks back on Sunday evening."

Byrds leads British Open by a shot

The Associated Press

ENDICOTT, N.Y. — Byrd for birdie. It almost became monotonous.

Jonathan Byrd had nine birdies Friday in a round of 7-under 65 that gave him a one-shot lead after two rounds of the B.C. Open.

Daniel Chopra and John Morgan, who lost in a playoff last week in the John Deere Classic, were tied for second at 11-under 133. Chopra had a 65 and Morgan a 68.

Another shot maker was Todd Fischer, Chris Smith, Roland Thatcher and Neal Lancaster. Fischer's leader Kelly Gibson shot 74 after an opening 64 to fall into a tie at 34th.

Kevin Stadler, who began the round one shot behind Gibson, faded with the lead all day. He made it to 11-under with an eagle on the par-5 12th but bogeyed his final two holes to finish with a 70 and drop back to 9-under 135 with six others.

Craig Sadler, Kevin's father and the defending champion, shot 69 and was another stroke back.

Robert Gomez had 11 birdies

Golf roundup

and equaled the En-Joe Golf Club course record with an 11-under 61, tying Hal Sutton (1995) and Fred Funk (1999). Notah Begay shot 62 in the morning, making 10 birdies on the soggy, forgiving course.

Byrd, who had an opening 67, had five birdies and a bogey on the back nine to reach 9-under, then birdied No. 1 to move into contention. He made a 15-foot birdie putt on No. 6 to go 12-under, fell back with a three-putt bogey on the par-4 seventh, then regained sole possession of the lead with a 5-foot birdie putt on No. 8.

After undergoing hip surgery in February, it was a welcome relief.

"I felt good the last three months, but I haven't got it done," said Byrd. "I'm playing great. There's no reason why I shouldn't feel great about tomorrow and Sunday and the rest of the year."

I'm just going to see how much fun I can have."

The cut line was 12-under, and Funk, just made it at 42. However, his quest to secure Ryder Cup points seemed doomed since he was 12 shots off the lead in a tie for 67th.

Park leads Giant Eagle

VIENNA, Ohio — Gloria Park had 10 birdies in a 6-under 66 Friday and held a one-stroke lead in the tournament she almost didn't play in.

She was sick Thursday night and considered withdrawing before the first round of the Giant Eagle LPGA Classic.

"I feel pretty good now," Park said. "Yesterday my stomach was hurting and I threw up during the night."

Young-A Yang had a 67 and Donna Andrews was another stroke back. Marilyn Lowander, Nadina Taylor and Laura Diaz shot 69.

The field is anything but stellar. Pat Hurst, who shot 73, is the only one here in the top 20 on the money list.



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Armstrong leaves rivals behind in stage win

American poised to claim 6th title with week left

BY JOHN LEICESTER

The Associated Press

PLATEAU DE BEILLE, France — Clearing the path to a record sixth straight Tour de France crown, Lance Armstrong overpowered his rivals Saturday to cement his place as one of cycling's greatest riders.

Armstrong captured the 13th stage to move within just 22 seconds of leader Thomas Voeckler, who most likely will be easy prey for the Texan.

With just the Alps and two time trials left to negotiate next week, only a meltdown by Armstrong or an unforeseen accident appeared to stand in the way of victory in Paris on July 25.

Only Italian Ivan Basso managed to stay with the five-time champion on the last of seven climbs in the Pyrenees, a devastating ascent to the Plateau de Beille. As Armstrong and Basso bobbed off their saddles through excited crowds lining the route, other riders scattered down the mountain, their hopes of winning seemingly over.



Lance Armstrong holds off Italian Ivan Basso, seen behind, to win the 13th stage of the Tour de France on Saturday.

"The team was great. ... It was a dream," Armstrong said.

Tyler Hamilton, a pre-Tour favorite, pulled out with severe back pain, climbing into a team vehicle shortly before the half-way mark of the 127.7-mile trek from Lannemezan. A year ago, the American rode most of the Tour with a broken collarbone and finished fourth.

Armstrong overtook Basso with a final burst of speed. He

also won this route in the 2002 Tour. The stage victory was Armstrong's 17th in 10 Tours and first this year. He also won the team time trials with his U.S. Postal Service squad this year and last.

On Friday, in the first Pyrenean stage, the placings were reversed: Basso won a stage for the first time in his career and Armstrong was second.

As in previous years, when Armstrong sealed victory in the mountains and then took his prize in Paris, he said he was not ready to declare the three-week race over yet.

"As I always say, the Tour finishes in Paris," the 32-year-old rider said. "There are still the Alps and many dangerous stages."

Germany's Jan Ullrich — abandoned again on the last climb, as he was Friday — was 2 minutes, 42 seconds behind. He came into the Tour seemingly determined to dethrone the Texan, who has beaten him three times — but his race unraveled in the Pyrenees.

Ullrich, the 1997 Tour winner and a five-time runner-up, is 6:39 behind Armstrong overall. Last year, he lost the Tour to Armstrong by just 61 seconds. Armstrong had rated the German as his most respected rival.

In just two stages in the Pyrenees, Armstrong has sliced Voeckler's lead from more than nine minutes. Voeckler, the

French champion, dropped away on the last climb to the Plateau de Beille — an ascent so hard it is not rated. But he persevered, limiting the damage and keeping his overall lead.

"I hung onto this jersey with my guts," he said. "I don't think many people were betting on me this morning — perhaps even me. I'm happy because it is mission accomplished," he added.

Armstrong said it had been his intention to take the lead when he set out Saturday. He came very close on the last 9.9-mile ascent, mined with hairpin bends that throw off riders' rhythm.

While Voeckler hung on, other rivals collapsed.

Roberto Heras, a former Armstrong teammate, placed 49th, 21:35 behind Armstrong and Basso, who finished in the same time. Iban Mayo, a Basque rider whose climbing skills deserted him in the Pyrenees, placed 115th — 37:40 back.

Basso, 1:17 behind Armstrong in the overall standings, has emerged as the last main rival. But he is not an outstanding time trial rider while Armstrong is. Basso gave up 2:02 to the champion in the final time trial last year and finished seventh in the overall standings, an improvement from his 11th place in 2002, when he was anointed the Tour's best young rider.

"We take him very seriously,"

91st TOUR DE FRANCE

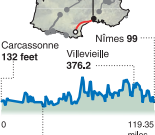
A 119-mile break

Tour cyclists get a break from the mountains to Carcassonne to Nîmes, and then a day break following the stage.

Stage 14

Sunday, July 18

0 100 mi
0 100 km



Source: Tour de France

said Armstrong, whose team tried to recruit the Italian last year. "He's riding super strong. I knew."

Pentagon
CHANNEL

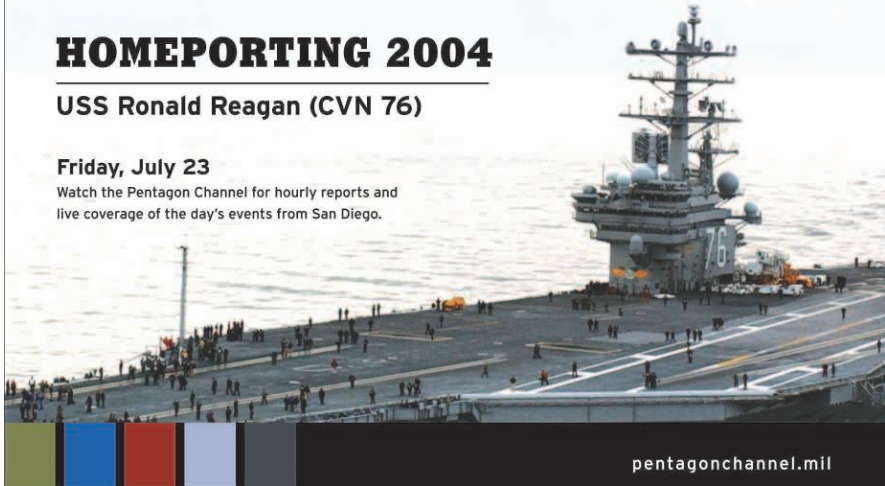
Serving Those Who Serve

HOMEPORTING 2004

USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76)

Friday, July 23

Watch the Pentagon Channel for hourly reports and live coverage of the day's events from San Diego.



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SPORTS



Marion Jones pulls out of the 200 in the U.S. Olympic trials, Page 28

Golf's heavyweights see a major opening



Second-round co-leader Thomas Levett battled changing conditions on Saturday to shoot 71 and stay in position to win his first major championship.

Four major champions in top eight at Troon

BY DOUG FERGUSON

The Associated Press

TROON, Scotland — More fickle than the weather in the British Open was the leader board it left behind.

At the top was the ultimate journeyman, Todd Hamilton, who breezed through Royal Troon in every condition imaginable Saturday for a 4-under 67 and a one-shot lead. Chasing him was a collection of golf's biggest stars,

including Ernie Els, Masters champion Phil Mickelson, U.S. Open champion Retief Goosen and Tiger Woods.

"A lead doesn't mean a whole lot right now," Els said. "There's 18 holes to play, and anything can happen."

Just about everything did on a wild day of weather and momentum changes, from Mickelson coming within inches of going out of bounds to Colin Montgomerie falling backward out of a bunker

to keep his slim hopes alive.

Hamilton, who toiled for a dozen years in faraway lands to become a PGA Tour rookie at age 38, played as if he belonged with a bogey-free round and incredible poise to finish at 8-under 205.

When umbrellas replaced sunglasses for the final time, the British Open looked eerily familiar: Last year, at Royal St. George's, all the best players were poised to hold the claret jug and it went to an unknown rookie named Ben

Curtis.

"I don't see why it can't happen again," Hamilton said.

The only difference is that no one paid any attention to Curtis until he was holding the silver jug, courtesy of a chain-reaction of collapses behind him.

Hamilton will be under the spotlight from the start, holding a one-shot lead over Els. The Big Easy birdied three of the last six holes for a 68 and is playing in the final group of a major for the second straight time.

Ten players were within five shots of the lead, half of them major champions.

"There is pressure on everybody," said Woods, whose 68 left him four shots behind. "Everybody has to play well. You can't go out there and play poorly and win this championship."

The man to beat might be Mickelson.

No longer bedeviled by links golf, Lefty has gone 37 consecutive holes without a bogey and took two big breaks down the stretch for a 68 that put him at 6-under 207. Mickelson will play in the next-to-last group with Goosen, the South African who beat him last month at Shinnecock Hills. Goosen had a 68.

SEE OPENING ON PAGE 30



British Open leader Todd Hamilton is a PGA Tour rookie who played the Asian Tour five years and won six times on the Japanese Tour.



Leading scores after the third round of the 133rd British Open at Royal Troon:

Todd Hamilton	71-67-67-205 -8
Ernie Els	69-69-68-206 -7
Retief Goosen	69-70-68-207 -6
Thomas Levett	68-70-71-207 -6
Phil Mickelson	73-66-68-207 -6
Barry Lane	69-68-71-208 -5
Scott Verplank	69-70-70-209 -4
Tiger Woods	70-71-68-209 -4
Skip Kendall	69-66-75-210 -3
C. Montgomerie	69-69-72-210 -3
Mike Weir	71-68-71-210 -3

Full-field scores on Page 30.



Trying to win his first major since the 2002 U.S. Open, Tiger Woods made birdies on three of the first four holes and shot 68.



Marlon Byrd's one-hit shutout of the Yankees helps Detroit match last season's win total

Page 24



Armstrong has plenty to smile about after a momentous ride in the Pyrenees

Page 31



Astros fall below .500 in Garner's first game as Houston's skipper

Page 25

Swords, Jacobs prevail in USAREUR 10-Miler Page 29